JUMP COMICS

巻ノ六

サクラの決意!!

NARUTO

-ナルト-

岸本斉史

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岸本斉史

Lately, all over the world, there has been an upswing in terrorist acts—attacks by armed groups and the taking of hostages—by the worst kind of criminals. In an effort to resolve these situations with as little bloodshed and fanfare as possible, nations all over the globe are increasingly turning toward special operations forces, armed with the latest technologies and finely honed skills, giving them superlative intelligence-gathering capabilities. Such operatives are truly the modern analog to the type of warriors who, in the past, were known as ninja!

—Masashi Kishimoto, 2000

Author/artist Masashi Kishimoto was born in 1974 in rural Okayama Prefecture, Japan. After spending time in art college, he won the Hop Step Award for new manga artists with his manga **Karakuri** ("Mechanism"). Kishimoto decided to base his next story on traditional Japanese culture. His first version of **Naruto**, drawn in 1997, was a one-shot story about fox spirits; his final version, which debuted in **Weekly Shonen Jump** in 1999, quickly became the most popular ninja manga in Japan.

JUMP COMICS

NARUTO

-ナルト-

巻ノ六

サクラの決意(けつい)!!

岸本斉史

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主な登場人物

うちは
サスケ

うずまき
ナルト

春野サクラ

ガイ

日向ネジ

ロック・リー

テンテン

カブト

犬塚キバ&
赤丸

日向ヒナタ

奈良シカマル

油女シノ

秋道チョウジ

山中いの

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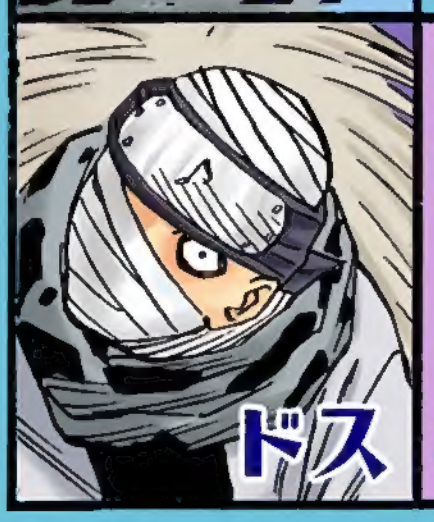

THE STORY SO FAR...

Twelve years ago, a destructive nine-tailed fox spirit attacked the ninja village of Konohagakure. The Hokage, or village champion, defeated the fox by sealing its soul into the body of a baby boy. Now that boy, Uzumaki Naruto, has grown up to become a ninja-in-training, learning the art of ninjutsu with his classmates Sakura and Sasuke. Astonishingly, Naruto and his team passed the written section of the Chûnin (Journeyman Ninja) Selection Exam, but they face new dangers in the exam's second portion, which is conducted in the Forest of Death! The object of the exercise is to reach the tower in the center of the forest with two scrolls in hand, and all three team members alive, before five days elapse. Each of the 26 teams is given only one scroll, and must steal the second scroll from another team using any means necessary!

前巻までのあらすじ

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NARUTO
ーナルトー

巻ノ六

サクラの決意(けつい)!!

もくじ

CONTENTS

NUMBER 46	THE PASSWORD IS...	7
NUMBER 47	PREDATOR!!	27
NUMBER 48	THE TARGET IS...!!	47
NUMBER 49	COWARD...!!	67
NUMBER 50	I'VE GOT TO...!!	87
NUMBER 51	BEAUTY IS THE BEAST!!	107
NUMBER 52	THE PRINCIPLES OF USE!!	127
NUMBER 53	SAKURA'S DECISION!!	147
NUMBER 54	SAKURA AND INO	167
PREVIEWS		184

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ナンバー

46

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HOP

THE TOWER'S WHERE EVERYONE IS ULTIMATELY GOING...

SHF

スッ

POP

TAK

SNIFF SNIFF SNIFF

クンクン

!!

SHF

WHERE ARE THEY?

FOUND THEM ALREADY, HUH?

...SO WE MIGHT AS WELL SET TRAPS AS CLOSE TO THERE AS POSSIBLE.

COLORED MANGA.COM

AGH!

WHAT'S WRONG? YOU'RE AS WHITE AS A SHEET.

SHIVER

サ!

!

STUPID KIDS... THEY MIGHT AS WELL BE SHOUTING, "CAPTURE US!"

FROM THE SOUND OF THINGS, THEY KNOW WE'RE SOMEWHERE NEARBY....

...BUT THEY HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT WHERE YET.

SHLUK

SQUIRM

WHAT IS THAT THING?!

ちゃ

モゾ

!!

AAAAAGH!

バキバキバキ

SPLAT SPLAT PLAT

ボタタタタ

!!

PLOP PLOP PLOP PLOP PLOP

COLORED MANGA.COM

SHUF

!

GROSS...

TWANG

HUNH?!

ICK...

EEYOOO...

SLUP

SUUOOP

HELP!!!

THE FLYING LEECHES OF KONOHA VILLAGE CAN SENSE PERSPIRATION AND BODY HEAT AND FLING THEMSELVES EN MASSE!

IF YOU CAN'T GET THEM OFF YOUR BODY WITHIN FIVE MINUTES, YOU'RE FINISHED. AND IF YOU PANIC TRYING TO GET AWAY FROM THEM... WELL...

ONE TEAM DOWN!

AAAAGH!

...THAT WAS FAST!

WELL...

うわあああ

COLORED MANGA.COM

THIS PLACE IS CREEPING ME OUT!

I'M TELLING YOU, SAKURA, IT'S NO BIG DEAL.

DID YOU GUYS HEAR SOMEONE... SCREAM?

...!!

INNER SAKURA

IF IT WERE SASUKE ON THE OTHER-HAND... HEH HEH

ヨロチ

OW!!

NOT IN FRONT OF ME, BOZO! I'M A LADY!

USE THE BUSHES!!!

WHAP

...

!!

ゴゴゴゴ

...UHHH... I GOTTA TAKE A LEAK...

GRUNT GRUNT

I TOLD YOU, YOU'RE IN THE PRESENCE OF A LADY! DON'T BE VUL--

カ

ツ

SIZZLE

!

OH, MAN! WHAT A RELIEF! FEELIN' GOOD NOW!

カ"ヤ

YANK

COLORED MANGA.COM

POW

S-SASUKE... I APPRECIATE THE CHIVALRY, BUT THAT WAS WAY OVER THE TOP!

ドゴ

カ

SLAM

WHAT THE--?!

!!

SWIPE

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH NARUTO?

UM. WHAT?

ズズ

WH-WHAT WAS THAT FOR?!!

YOU'RE EVEN WORSE AT DISGUISE SPELLS THAN THE REAL NARUTO.

AND YOU FORGOT THE CUT THAT NARUTO GOT FROM THE PROCTOR JUST BEFORE THE EXAM.

YOU'RE WEARING YOUR SHURIKEN THROWING STARS ON YOUR LEFT THIGH. NARUTO'S RIGHT-HANDED.

!!

I'M RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU... BLEEDING!

HELLO!

COLORED BY NARUANGA.COM

TAK

!!

WHICH ONE OF YOU TWO HAS THE SCROLL?!

SINCE YOU'VE FORCED ME TO COME CLEAN, WHY DON'T YOU DO THE SAME?

TAK TAK

POP

UNFOR-TUNATELY, YOU'VE FORCED ME TO BE DIRECT!

FWOOSH

SHIU

FIRE STYLE! ART OF THE PHOENIX FLOWER.. THE TOUCH-ME-NOT!

VNN

FWP FWPFW

TIGER

COLORED

ANGA.COM

CHING

ドゴ

ドゴ

WHOP

WHOP

HOP

WHOP

HOP

THAT IDIOT

YEAH!!

THUCK

SASUKE!!

SQUIRM

THOCK THOCK THOCK

FWP

THOCK

HAH!

WHIP WHIP

YOU LEFT AN OPENING-- LUCKY ME!!

GLOBE MANGA.COM

BOOOOOOM

ボカーン

!!

SIZZLE

A LETTER BOMB!

BETTER AND BETTER. ONE FALSE MOVE, AND I'LL KILL YOU.

NOW HAND OVER THE SCROLL!

OW!

ドサ

THUP

...!!

SASUKE!!

COLORED BY MANGA.COM

!!

HEH...

!!

FWOOM!!

KACHAK

YOUR NOT GETTING AWAY THAT EASY!

CHAKRA ENERGY WILL HOLD THIS TO THE SOLE OF MY SHOE...

FLIIIP

LATE AS USUAL NARUTO!!

HMMM

COLORED
ANGA.COM

SHIKK

SHOOM

GAAH!!

THAM

KACHK

!!

!!

DLDR5D
ARGA.COM

PLIT PLIT

SASUKE...

HE GAVE ME NO CHOICE! NOW MOVE! WE DON'T KNOW WHERE HIS FRIENDS ARE!

YOU GOT THAT?

KEEP STANDING THERE, AND YOU'LL END UP DEAD!!!

GAA

MY... ARM!

OHHH!

THIS IS AWFUL!

I THOUGHT COMING ALONE WOULD HELP CONCEAL MY PRESENCE... INSTEAD, IT'S BEEN MY RUIN!

SHLUP

SIGH

GONE...

LEAP

LEAP

COLORED MANGA.COM

...WE CAN'T TRUST EACH OTHER BLINDLY!

IT COULD END UP THE WAY THIS DID!

REMEMBER THIS. IF WE GET SEPARATED AGAIN...

THAT WAY, WE'LL KNOW. NO MATTER WHO THEY LOOK LIKE OR HOW THEY SOUND, IF ONE OF US GETS THAT WRONG...

...THEY'RE AN ENEMY!

THE SAFEST THING IS FOR US TO HAVE A SECRET PASSWORD.

BUT WHAT CAN WE DO?

WHEN I ASK FOR IT, HERE'S WHAT YOU RESPOND...

IT'S A POEM CALLED "NINKI" -- "NINJA OPPORTUNITY."

LISTEN VERY CAREFULLY. I'LL SAY IT ONLY ONCE!

COLORED MANGA.COM

"OUR ONLY CONCERN IS TO WATCH AND WAIT...

"WE THRIVE IN THE CHAOS OF THE ENEMY TIDE. QUIET *SHINOBI* DON'T NEED DENS TO HIDE.

YOU ARE SUCH A DUNCE. I'VE ALREADY GOT IT DOWN!

AND YOU EXPECT ME TO REMEMBER THAT... **HOW?!**

BINGO!

...

"...UNTIL THE ENEMY LOWERS THE GATE."

I'LL TAKE THE SCROLL.

WE NEED A BETTER PASSWORD! HOW ABOUT "SWORDFISH"?

VERY GOOD. TIME TO PULL BACK AND REGROUP...

SHF

COLORED MANGA.COM

FWOOM

WHAT THE...?

OW!

!

FWUM

YAAAAAAH!!

!!

A NEW ENEMY?!

BOOOM

I'LL GO IN ALONE!

STICK AROUND, YOU TWO. IT COULD BE FUN!

BABOOOOM

COLORED MANGA.COM

!

STAY BACK! DON'T COME NEAR!

WHAT'S THE PASSWORD?

THE "NINKI."

SASUKE!

SAKURA...

FWP

YOW... ARE YOU GUYS ALL RIGHT?

!!

!!

"WE THRIVE IN THE CHAOS OF THE ENEMY TIDE. QUIET *SHINOBI* DON'T NEED DENS TO HIDE. OUR ONLY CONCERN IS TO WATCH AND WAIT UNTIL THE ENEMY LOWERS THE GATE."

GOOD!

OH! RIGHT!

WHEW!

KAK

"WE THRIVE IN THE CHAOS OF THE ENEMY TIDE. QUIET *SHINOBI* DON'T NEED DENS TO HIDE. OUR ONLY CONCERN IS TO WATCH AND WAIT UNTIL THE ENEMY LOWERS THE GATE."

RIGHT. "NINKI."

NOT SO FAST, NARUTO! THE PASSWORD?

ANGA.COM

!!

TOK

FWIP

WHAT?!

!!

HEYY!

WAIT JUST A SECOND HERE!

AND THIS TIME, HE'S GOOD ENOUGH TO DEFLECT MY ATTACK!

TAK

NARUTO GOT THE PASSWORD RIGHT!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, SASUKE?

ズザッ

WHUD

COLORED BY ANSA.COM

ボニ

WELL DONE!

HUH?

ニヤ

ONG

HEH

THAT'S WHY I CHOSE THAT KIND OF PASSWORD...

I KNEW YOU WERE UNDERGROUND, EAVESDROPPING ON EVERYTHING WE SAID.

WHAT GAVE ME AWAY?

スリ

I SEE...

WATCH AND WAIT, EH?

THIS IS GOING TO BE MORE FUN THAN I THOUGHT!

GOTCHA, IMPOSTER!

...THE KIND THE REAL NARUTO WOULD NEVER MANAGE TO MEMORIZE.

DOFF

COLORED MANGA.COM

MEET KISHIMOTO MASASHI'S ASSISTANTS – PART ONE

◦ASSISTANT NO. 1: TAKAHASHI KAZUHIRO

PROFILE

◦ A NATIVE OF KYUSHU WITH A TASTE FOR GOOD SAKE AND RED BEAN BUNS, HE COMES FROM THE BEAUTIFUL CITY OF BEPPU, ALSO KNOWN AS HELL (BECAUSE OF THE SULFUROUS FUMES THAT BILLOW FROM ITS FAMOUS HOT SPRINGS).

◦ LOVES TO EAT AND ALWAYS HAS HIS NOSE IN THE OFFICE REFRIGERATOR.

◦ LOTS OF TREASURES ARE SLEEPING IN HIS CLOSET AT HOME.

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◦ HAS A TASTE FOR LEATHER AND WILD MOTORBIKE RIDES.

◦ HE'S A SUB-ZERO SUPER-COOL BAD BOY WHO LIKES TO PLAY DUMB. HE WORKS AS MY BETA -- THE ARTIST WHO SPOTS THE SOLID BLACKS IN HAIR AND CLOTHING, LAYS DOWN THE HALF-TONES, AND COMPLETES THE BACKGROUND ART -- AND LIVES LIKE A CHIEF.

UNH...

NUMBER 47: PREDATOR!!

FWP

OOH...

OHH...

MMPH...

OWW...

HUNH?

...!

I-I-IT'S...

...

YAAAH!

!!!

WHERE'D SAKURA AND THAT BONE-HEAD SASUKE GO?

...

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NUMBER 47: PREDATOR!!

HSSSS

...HUGE!!!

COLORED
MANGA.COM

WH-WHAT IS UP WITH THIS FOREST...?!

SSSLIDE

...A SNAKE THAT BIG!

I-IVE NEVER SEEN...

TAK

SSSSS

GRRR

!!

FWUP

!

!!

...TH-THE TAIL...!!

BEHIND ME?!

ACK!

COLORED MANGA.COM

GULP

KLOK

PFFFFFGGGH!!

SLLLUP

HEY!!

IT ATE ME!!

SLLLUP

GET ME OUTTA HERE...!

COLORED MANGA.COM

THAT WAS ANOTHER PHONY NARUTO!!

RRRRF

...!

IF HE'D BEEN THE REAL THING...

...HE'D HAVE SAID SOMETHING LIKE, "WHAT'S THAT STUPID PASSWORD AGAIN?"

THIS SCROLL READS *CHI*, MEANING "EARTH."

I SUPPOSE YOU'D LIKE TO STEAL OUR EARTH SCROLL, WOULDN'T YOU...?

...SINCE YOU'VE ALREADY GOT A HEAVEN SCROLL!

FWIP

WHERE IS THAT FOOL NARUTO, ANYWAY?

THIS ONE... GIVES ME THE CREEPS!

COLORED BY NARUTOMANGA.COM

GLUGK

LICK

GULP GULP

SLUPP

!!

...JUST WHO WILL BE STEALING SCROLLS FROM WHOM?

NOW... SHALL WE SEE...

COLORED MANGA.COM

WE'LL FIGHT TO THE DEATH!

COLORED MANGA.COM

PULSE

BLORTCH !!

UHHN...

HUFF

... HE'S CAST- ING... AN ILLU- SION!

PUFF

PUFF

A"

THOK

WH-WHO THE HECK IS HE... ?!!

I LOOKED INTO HIS EYES... AND HE MADE ME FEEL IT... AND BELIEVE IT!

IT'S NOT... DEATH... JUST AN INCREDIBLE SIMULATION!

PUFF HUFF PUFF PUFF

COLORED MANGA.COM

!

...!!

SAKURA...

CRUD! IF WE DON'T RETREAT NOW...

...WE'RE FINISHED!

THE ONLY OTHER OPTION IS DEATH!!

HEH... I IMAGINE YOU'RE PARALYZED BY NOW...

COLORED MANGA.COM

.....

...JUST ENOUGH!!

NOT QUITE... I CAN MOVE...

VNNN

TOK

COLORED MANGA.COM

THOK THOK

STAB

PUFF PUFF PUFF

HEH... JUST AS I THOUGHT, THERE IS FAR MORE TO THIS ONE THAN TO THE COMMON PREY!

AMAZING! THE BOY STABBED HIMSELF SO,THAT HE WOULD BE'ABLE TO FOCUS ON THE PAIN AND BLOCK OUT FEAR AND ILLUSION!

UUNH...

!!

SHLUGK

COLORED MANGA.COM

HEY! HEY, YOU! OUT THERE! YOU BETTER SPIT ME OUT WHILE YOU'VE GOT THE CHANCE!!!

MORE, PLEASE. KEEP IT COMING!!

ULP!

BUT HOW DO I M'AKE THIS FREAK BARF?

...

I GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE BEFORE MISTER SLIMY DIGESTS ME!

... RATS!!

ZI!!

PUFF

THAT'S IT!!! ART OF THE DOPPEL-GANGER, SOLID FORM!!

COLORED MANGA.COM

PUFF PUFF

KABOOM

HUFF PUFF

HUFF

RIGHT!!

NOW, TO FIND SAKURA AND SASUKE...!!

I GOT BETTER THINGS TO DO WITH MY LIFE THAN END UP A BIG SNAKE TURD!

I'M THE SHINOBI WHO'LL BECOME LORD HOKAGE. SO DON'T MESS WITH ME!!

SQUISH

COLORED
NARUANGA.COM

!!

SPEAK TO ME, SAS--

WHUP

...THE QUESTION IS HOW TO EVADE HIM... UM...

...UM ...HOW DO WE RUN...? UM...

WE'VE GOT TO MOVE FAST, OR HE'LL FIND US AGAIN!

MUFFLE

!!

!

I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM LIKE THIS...

SASUKE IS SO JUMPY...

COLORED MANGA.COM

SASUKE! SNAAAAAKE!!

MMM.... MNNNNN!!!

HSSSS

キロ

SSSLITHER

TAP

WHOA

MY CHI IS SO OUT OF WHACK, I OVER-LOOKED A GIANT SNAKE!

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HSSSS

!!

YIPE

FWUK

FWUK FWUK FWUK

!!

YAAAAH!!
GET LOST!

THUK THUK THUK

COLORED MANGA.COM

HUFF

PUFF

PUFF

SKFF

WHOMP

SSSLITHER

FOR SHAME, LETTING YOUR GUARD DOWN! STAY ON YOUR TOES, LIKE A GOOD PREY SHOULD!

IT MAKES THE CHASE SO MUCH MORE REWARDING...

!

SHRED

SHREAD

...FOR THE PREDATOR!

COLORED MANGA.COM

ヒュオ

WHIP

ミシルル

SLITHER

!

……

SORRY, SASUKE...

カカカ

CHUK CHUK

HOP

!!!

ONNNG

...THAT STUPID PASSWORD!

I CAN'T REMEMBER..

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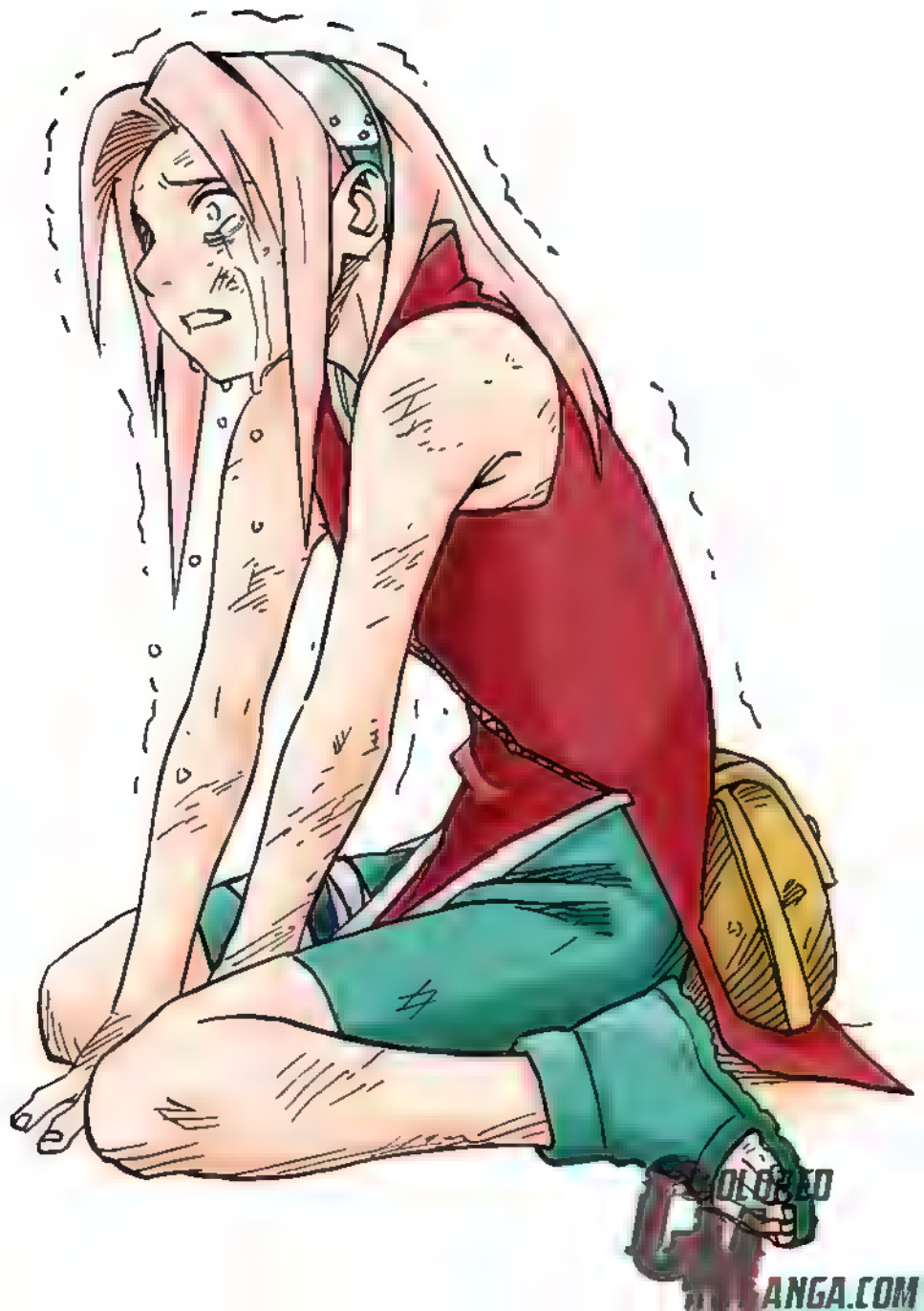
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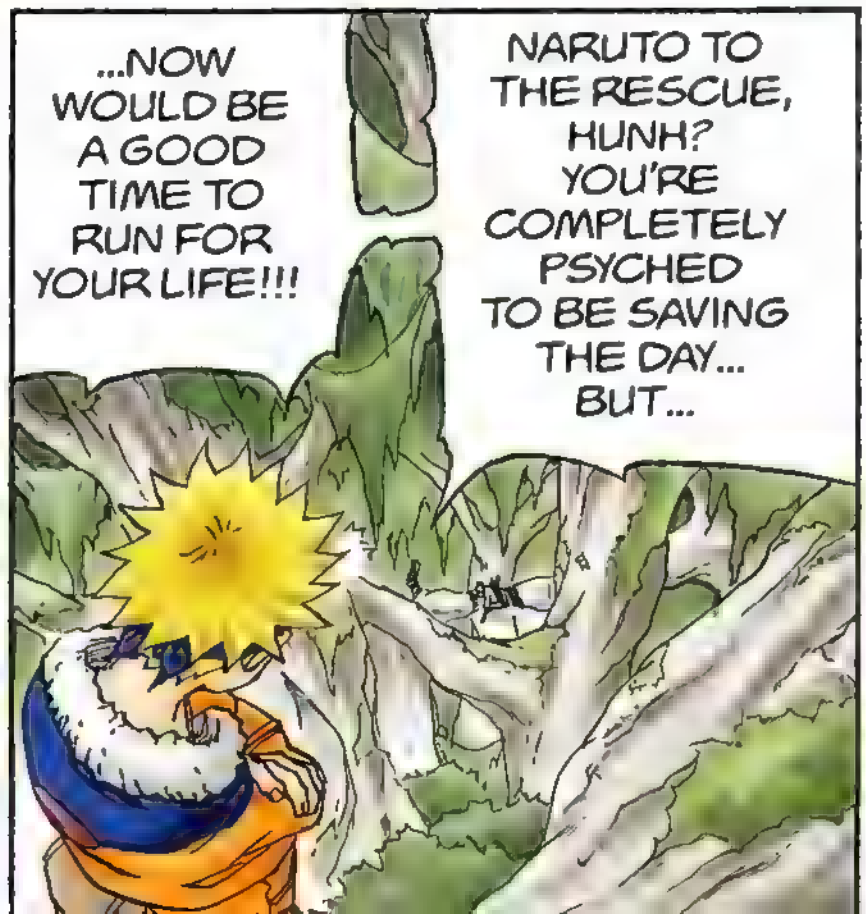
ナンバー 48 :

THE TARGET IS!!



ナンバー
48：
THE TARGET IS!!

...NARUTO.

HEH HEH... MY COMPLIMENTS ON YOUR STUNNING DEFEAT OF THE GIANT SNAKE...

!

THIS GUY'S A FREAK. HE'S A MAN... BUT ALL I CAN SEE WHEN I LOOK AT HIM IS A SNAKE. EVERYTHING ABOUT HIM...

GRRRR

... HE'S MADE THINGS WORSE. BUT THERE MUST BE SOME WAY TO...

EVERY TIME I EVER TRIED TO RESCUE US...

SNAKEY!

I'LL BET THAT SNAKE WAS HIS!

I'VE GOT TO STOP THIS BEFORE HE GETS US ALL KILLED.

HEY!

WHY DON'T YOU PICK ON SOMEONE YOUR OWN SIZE...? OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT...

SNAP

THIS IS ALL I CAN THINK OF...

IF IT'S OUR SCROLL YOU WANT, COME AND GET IT!

...TAKE IT AND GO!

JUST...

スッ

SHF

!

OH... SHARIN-GAN MIMIC EYES... BUT HE STOPPED.

HUH?

WHAT?!

!!

HEH

IS THIS SOME CLEVER WAY OF BEATING THE ENEMY...? BY HANDING OVER EVERYTHING WE'VE GOT?!

SASUKE!! WHAT THE HECK DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!

...LIES IN THE CHANCE OF THE PREDATOR BEING DISTRACTED BY SOME TASTIER BAIT!

...INSTINCTIVELY KNOWING THAT YOUR ONLY HOPE...

YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY NATURAL-BORN PREY...

WELL DONE...

SSSLIDE

!!

POK

ポイ

COME AND GET IT!

TAP

FWUP

FLIP

ヒュ

!!

STAY OUT OF THIS!

YOU'LL RUIN EVERY-THING!!

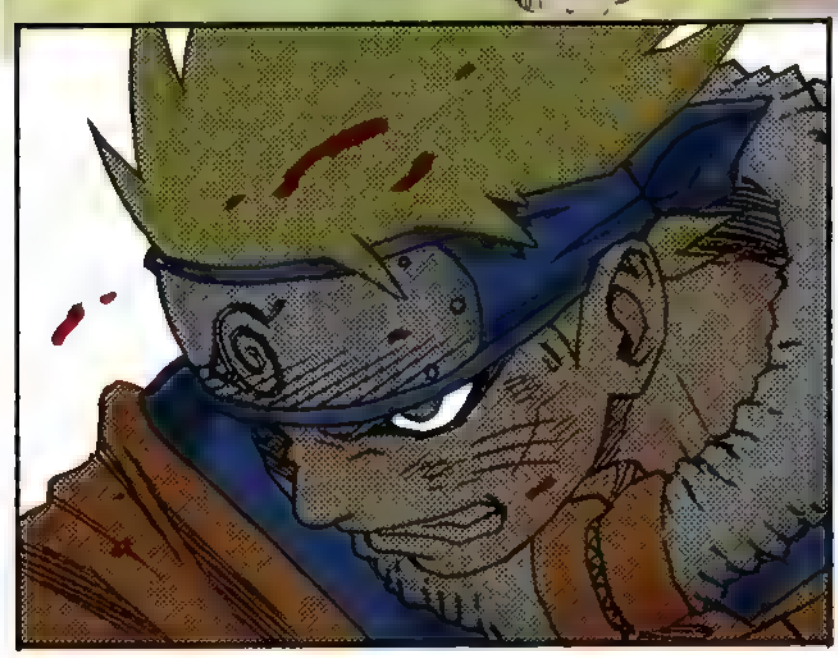
ゲシ

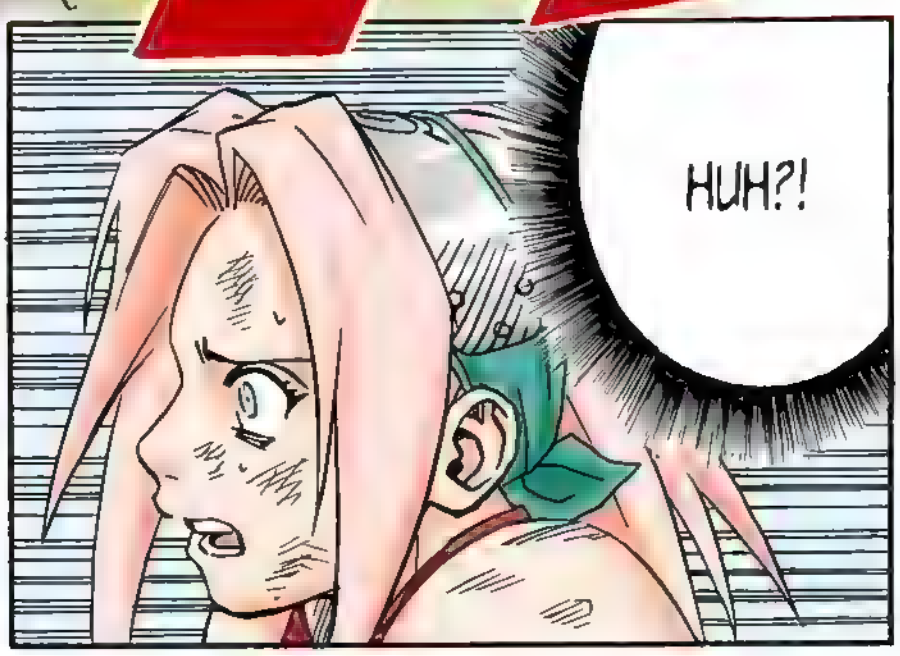
SKF

POW

KI

TI





HUFF
PUFF
PUFF
PUFF
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
TAP
AH
TAK
BUT THIS SO-CALLED SASUKE IS OBVIOUSLY A FAKE!
!
I FORGOT THE STUPID PASSWORD...
SO I CAN'T PROVE IT...
NARUTO... WHAT ARE YOU...?
...THAT'S BULL!
...YOU IDIOT! I'M ME...!
NARUTO...
WHAT?!

PUFF

YOU'RE A COWARD. WHICH SASUKE ISN'T. SO YOU'RE NOT HIM!!!

AND YOU'RE THE IDIOT, IDIOT!

PUFF

HUFF

SO, EVEN IF YOU WERE SASUKE, I'D STILL BE TELLING YOU YOU'RE AN IDIOT... AND MAYBE A CHICKEN, TOO!

OH, NARUTO! THIS IS RICH!

AND EVEN IF WE DID HAND OVER THE SCROLL... THERE'S NO GUARANTEE HE'D SPARE US!

I'M NOT SO SURE WE NEED TO BE AFRAID OF THIS GUY...

.....!

AND YOU'RE RIGHT.

SHF

WHY BARGAIN...

スパチュ

SLUP

...WHEN I CAN SIMPLY KILL YOU... AND TAKE THE SCROLL?

NIP

SHUT UP!

ア＝ヨ＝

TAK TAK

TAK

ア＝

キル

GRRRR

DON'T DO IT, NARUTO!!

AW MAN...

HOP

ART OF THE FAMILIAR SPIRIT!

ゴゴゴ

MY FAITH IN SASUKE IS TOTALLY SHOT!!!

GNNND

Ozzo

Sszap

POW

BAM BAM

WHAM

ドカ

バ バ キ

NARUTO!!

...OW...

LUB DUB

GAKK

EXCELLENT... BUT LET'S NOT TAKE CHANCES. EAT THE BOY! ♡

FWUUP

SLLIP

LUB DUB

EAT SNOT, SUCKER!!

HOW COULD THE BRAT POSSIBLY...?

!!

WHERE DID HE GET THAT KIND OF POWER?!

NARUTO'S... COM-PLETELY SNAPPED... BUT...

RRRROAR!!

ONG ONG

GRRR

GRRR

YAAH.

!!

!!

IS THAT REALLY NARUTO...?!

LOOK AT THOSE EYES... HE'S...

ド!!

AGH!!

カ

POW

!!

AND IT'S SASUKE'S TURN NEXT! HOW WILL HE TAKE IT?!

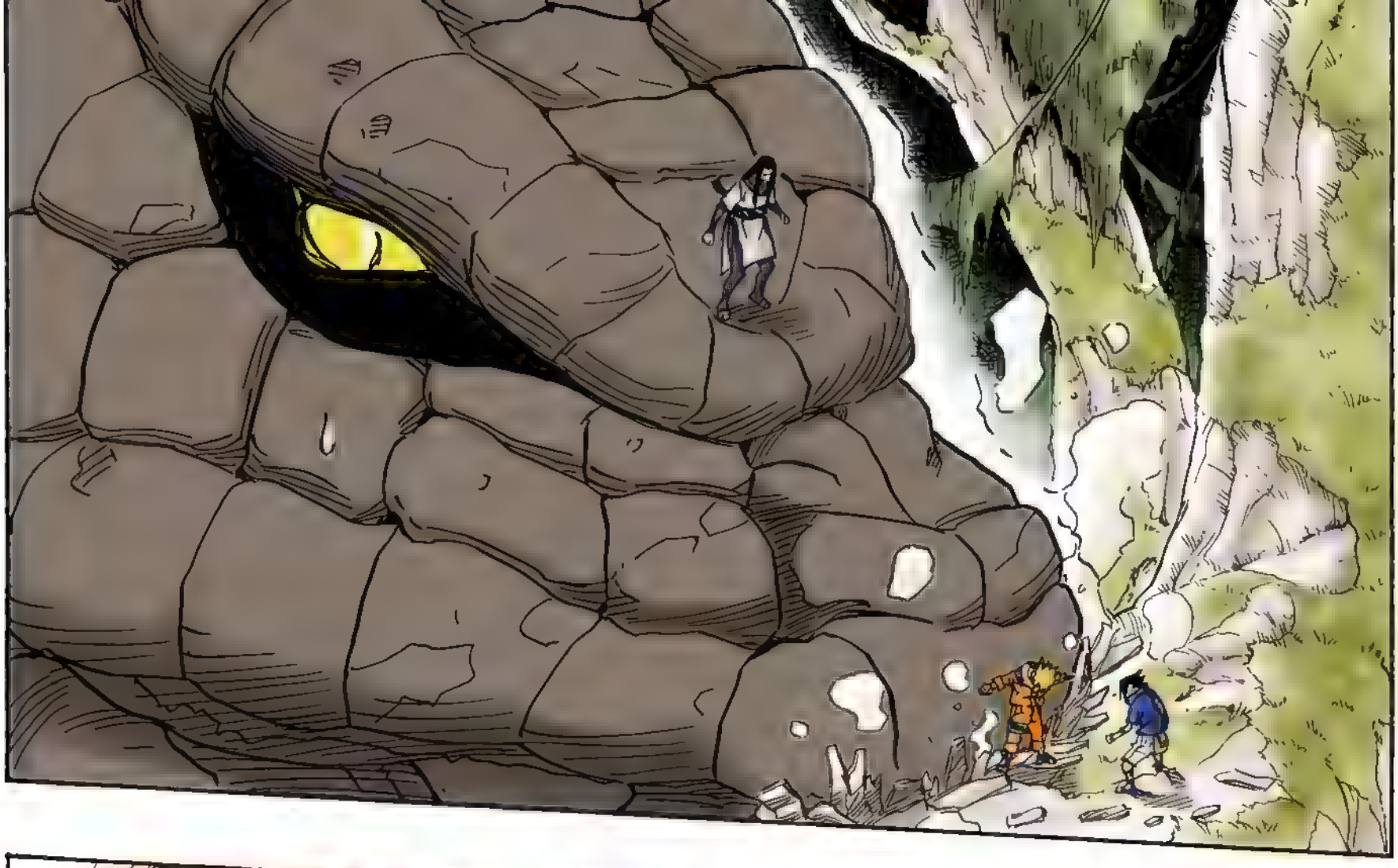
HO HO... AND THE FUN HAS JUST BEGUN!

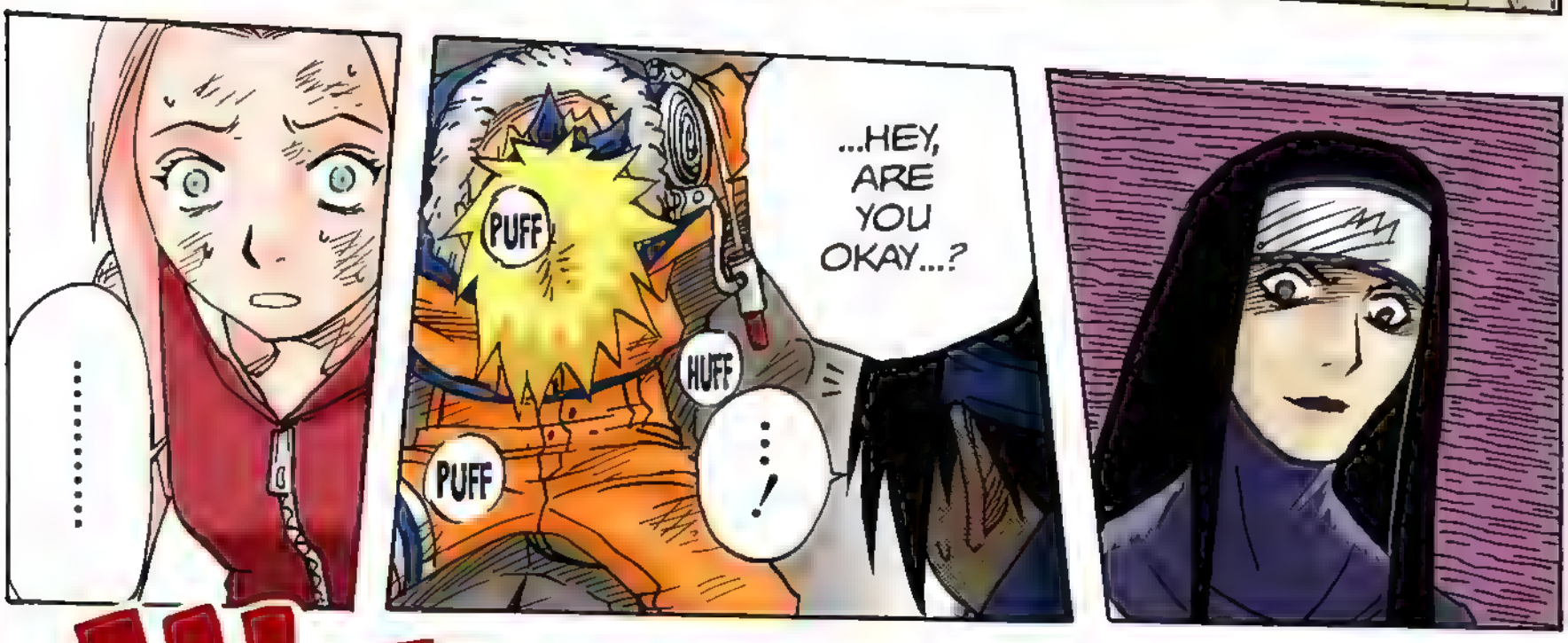
POW

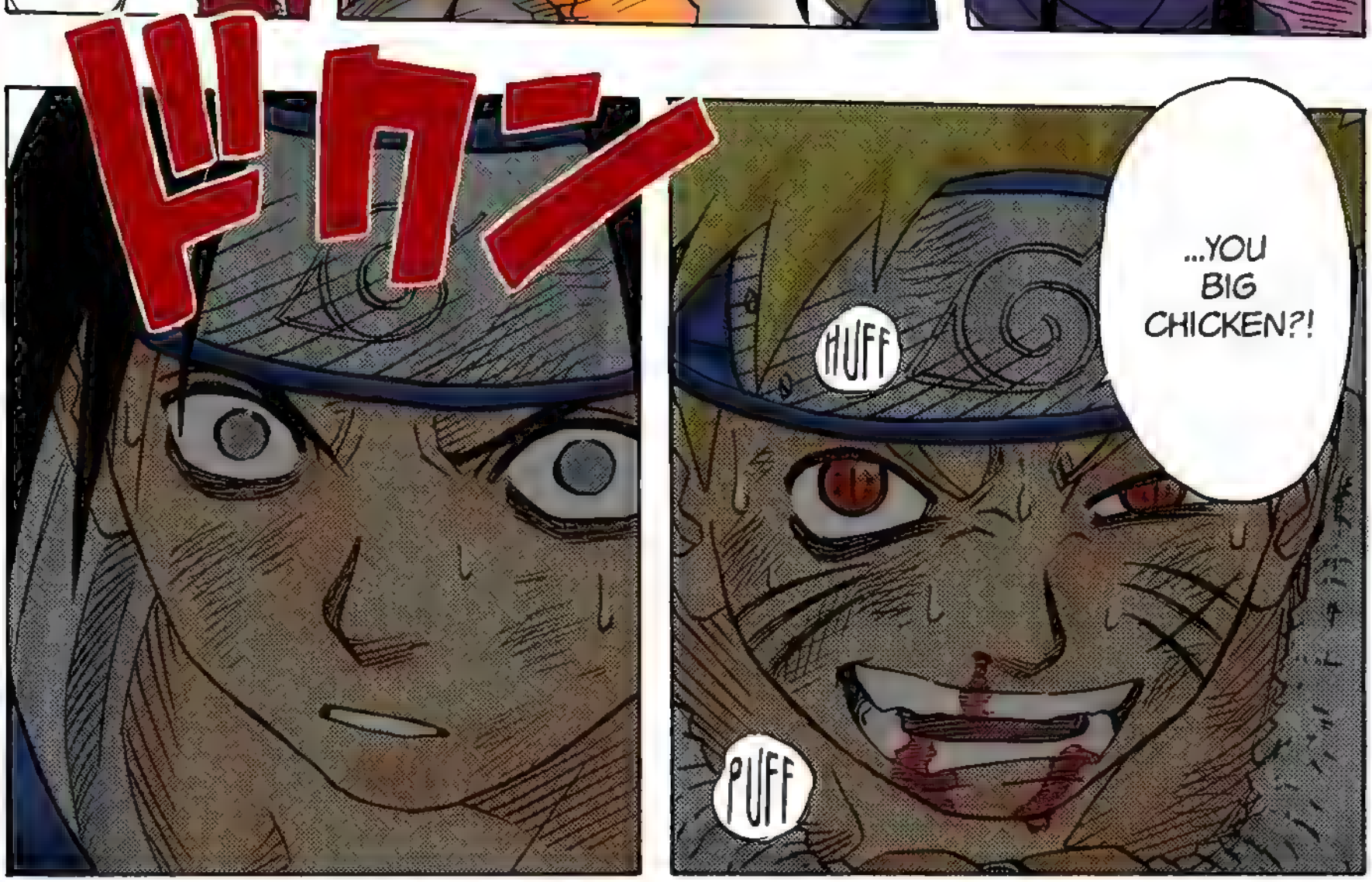
ドカ

SASUKE!!

!!




.....
PUFF
PUFF
HUFF
...HEY, ARE YOU OKAY...?
...!


ドカーン
HUFF
PUFF
...YOU BIG CHICKEN?!

LUB

ナンバー

49 : COWARD!!

THE RESULT OF SOME KIND OF NINJA SKILL...

...ALL OF THEM AS DEAD AS STONE BUDDHAS...

...ONE, TWO, THREE...

CRUD.

SNUFF

STARTING OUT WITH A PROBLEM...

ポリ

ポリ

ULP!

BAD NEWS...

SCRATCH SCRATCH

ナンバー

49: COWARD!!

REPORT THIS TO LADY ANKO, WHO'S CONDUCTING THE SECOND EXAM!

YESSIR!

TAK

AND AS SOON AS I'M DONE WITH LUNCH, I'LL GET TO THE TOWER..

...SO I CAN GREET ANYONE WHO MANAGES TO PASS THIS TEST.

MMMM. NOTHING GOES BETTER WITH DANGO RICE DUMP-LINGS...

...THAN OSHIRUKO BEAN SOUP.

ズズッ

SLIP

SHAZAAAM

TERRIBLE NEWS, LADY ANKO!!

WHOP

AH... A COMPLETE KONOHA TREE-LEAF MARK!!

FLIP

THE GOOD ONES SHOULD BE DONE...

...IN LESS THAN A DAY.

DEAD... AND VERY WEIRD.

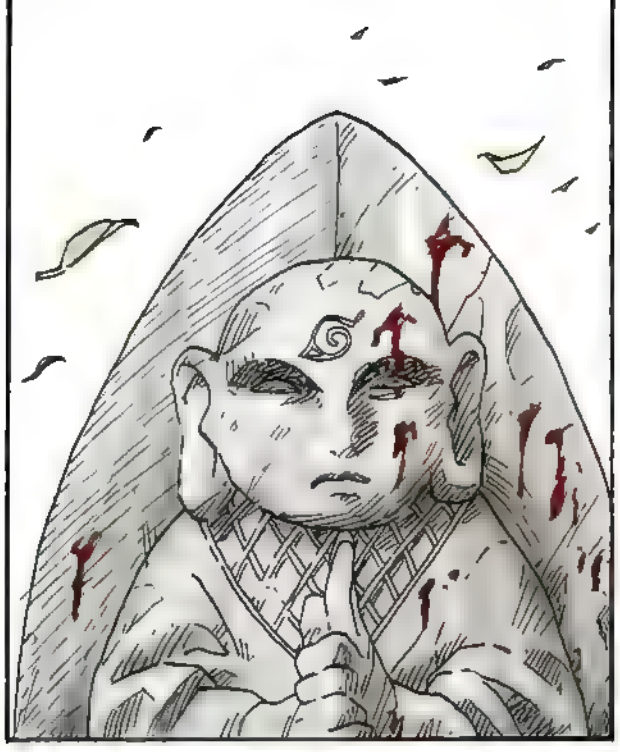
PLEASE, COME SEE FOR YOURSELF!

DEAD BODIES?!

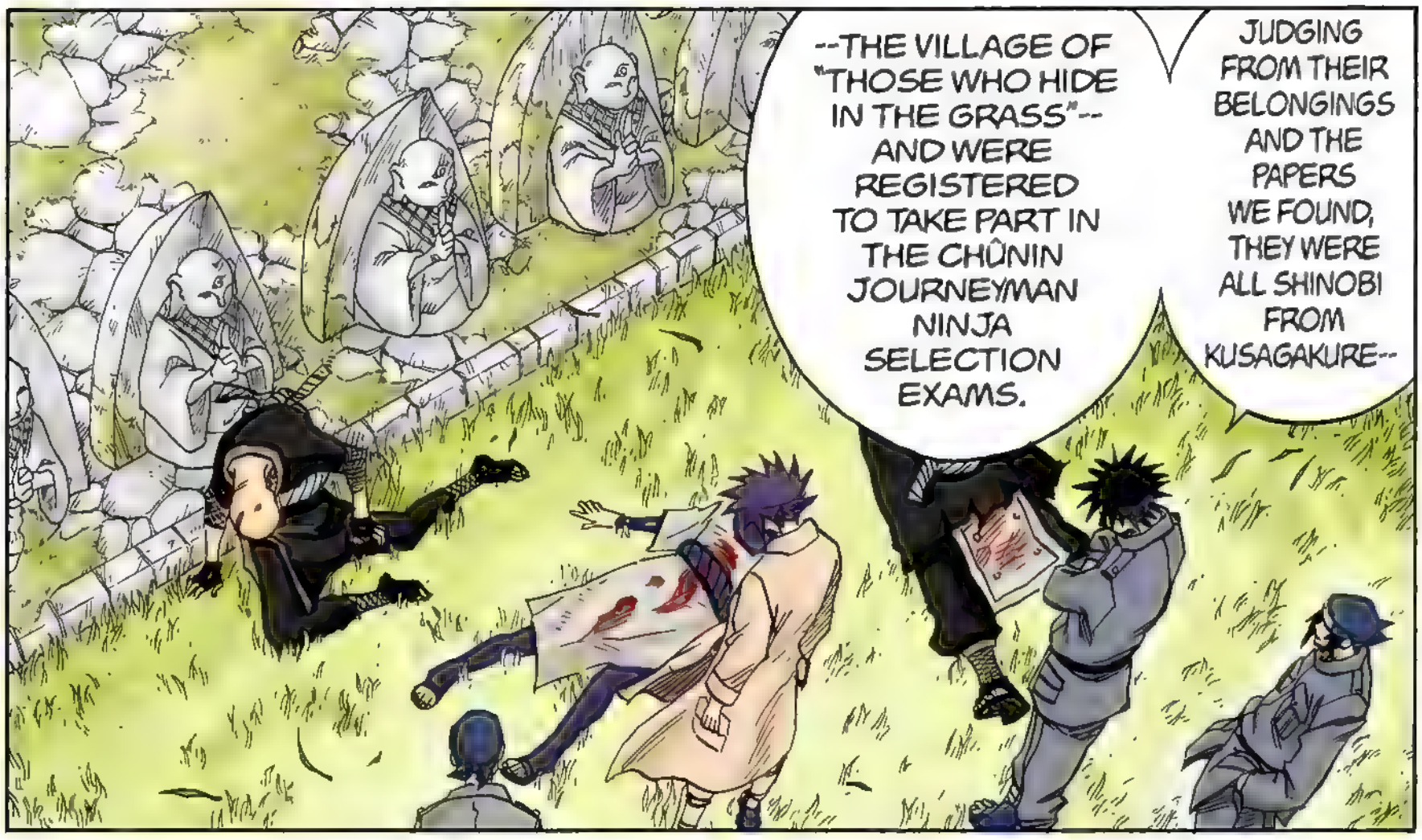
DEAD BODIES! THREE OF THEM...

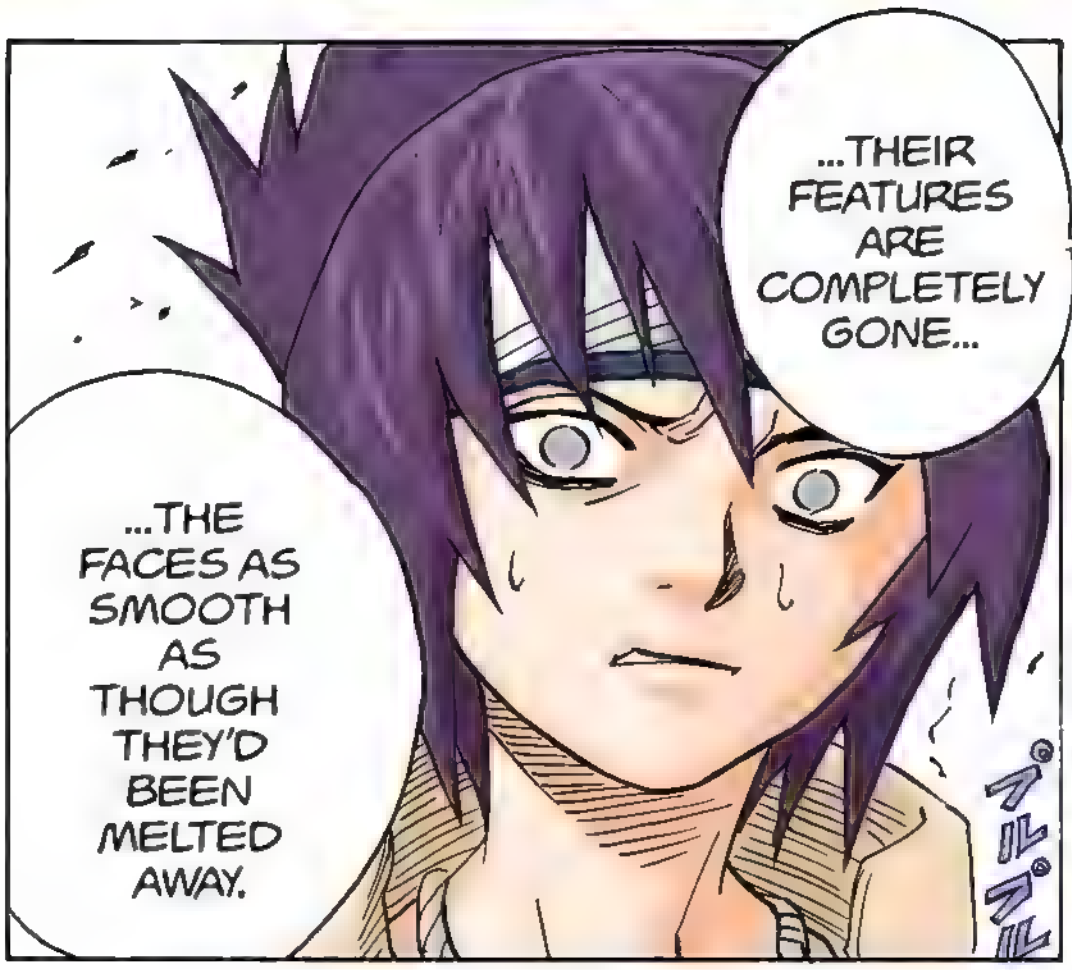
!

ALREADY? WHAT IS IT?



WEIRD... HOW?!
ULP!


--THE VILLAGE OF "THOSE WHO HIDE IN THE GRASS"-- AND WERE REGISTERED TO TAKE PART IN THE CHÛNIN JOURNEYMAN NINJA SELECTION EXAMS.
JUDGING FROM THEIR BELONGINGS AND THE PAPERS WE FOUND, THEY WERE ALL SHINOBI FROM KUSAGAKURE--


...THEIR FEATURES ARE COMPLETELY GONE...
...THE FACES AS SMOOTH AS THOUGH THEY'D BEEN MELTED AWAY.
ゾルゾル

AND, AS YOU CAN SEE...
.....

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT... I RECOGNIZE WHOSE TECHNIQUE WAS USED HERE!

BUT WHY WOULD HE MEDDLE IN THIS?

BUT.THAT MEANS HE'D ALREADY DONE SO WHEN...!!

SO THIS IS THE FACE HE STOLE...

FWP

SHOW ME THE PHOTOS FROM THE DEAD SHINOBIS' I.D.

AT ONCE!!

I'M GOING AFTER THE IMPOSTERS!

ASK THAT HE DEPLOY TWO ADDITIONAL BLACK OPS TO THE FOREST OF DEATH AT ONCE!!

WHAT?!

THIS IS AWFUL!

YOU THREE! REPORT WHAT'S HAPPENED TO LORD HOKAGE!!

NARUTO...

YOU'RE A COWARD. WHICH SASUKE ISN'T. SO YOU'RE NOT HIM!!!

AND YOU'RE THE IDIOT, IDIOT!

...YOU BIG CHICK-EN?

ARE YOU OKAY...

!!!

FWIIP

RRRR

ミュルル

!!

!!

YAAAH!

HEYYYY! GET OFF ME!!

!!

HEH HEH... THE BRAT OF NINE TAILS IS STILL ALIVE AND KICKING!

FLIP

FWUP

POOM POOM POOM POOM

THERE'S THE PROOF. THE SPELL THAT SEALS THE MONSTER WITHIN APPEARS ON YOUR SKIN LIKE A TATTOO.

HOW FASCINATING THAT, WHEN HE IS CONSUMED WITH RAGE, HE LOSES HIMSELF... AND A BIT OF THE NINE-TAILED DEMON FOX TRAPPED WITHIN...

...COMES THROUGH. AN AMAZING DEVELOP-MENT!

ボッ

木

ボッ

火

ボボッ

水

金

土

ボッ

WATER

METAL

SASUKE! NARUTO NEEDS YOU!!

A FIVE-PRONGED SPELL!!

TREE FIRE EARTH

SHLUGK

RUSTLE OHHH

ゴゾゴゾ

ザ!!

...THE DEMON FOX AND NARUTO'S NATIVE CHAKRA AND PSYCHE HAVE APPARENTLY GONE FROM ENMITY AND OPPOSITION TO COEXISTENCE... AND ARE ON THE VERY BRINK OF SYMBIOSIS!

AFTER BEING TRAPPED WITHIN HIM FOR A DOZEN YEARS...

ドクン

LUB DU

BLINK

Z

POK

THIS SCROLL READS *TEN*, MEANING "HEAVEN."

ガイ

BUT, TODAY, YOU ARE MORE TROUBLE THAN YOU'RE WORTH.

天

スリ

SHF

CHOK

FLUMP

カッ

カクン

HE'S BOUND TO FALL!!

NARUTO!!

FWIPP

キル

SASUKE!!

SNF

RIGHT?!

NARUTO'S NO COWARD!

NARUTO MAY BE NOTHING LIKE YOU... HE'S CLUMSY, AND HE HOLDS US BACK...

AND SOMETIMES HE'S A BIG NUISANCE, BUT AT LEAST HE'S GOT GUTS!

WITHOUT HONOR!

CLING-ING TO LIFE...

BABY BROTHER, YOU'RE PATHETIC. IF YOU WANT TO KILL ME, SETTLE FOR HATING ME UNTIL YOU CAN!

HATE ME... AND LIVE, LIKE THE COWARD YOU ARE!

LUBDUB

ハァハァ

NO!!

SASUKE!!

HEH HEH... IT APPEARS THAT THE BLOOD OF HIS ANCESTORS IS RISING UP IN THIS ONE, DEMANDING ACTION.

RUSTLE RUSTLE

ガガガガ

ボン

ONNNG

SWIPE

WE'LL TAKE OUR TIME, SO YOU CAN SHOW ME ALL YOUR MOVES!

ズズズ

BUT MAYBE I'M THE ONE WHO'S BEEN THE DUNCE ALL THIS TIME!

NARUTO... SAKURA...!

I'VE BEEN LIVING WITH THE HOPE OF ONE DAY KILLING MY OLDER BROTHER. I THOUGHT IT WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING...

GRAB

FWUP FWUP FWUP

... BECAUSE SOMEONE WHO CAN'T EVEN STAND UP AND DO WHAT HAS TO BE DONE AT A TIME LIKE THIS... WOULDN'T STAND A CHANCE IN A FIGHT AGAINST... HIM!

HOP

KLAT

THUNK

WHUP

THUNK THUNK THUNK

FWUUP

I SEE HIM !!

SMAT

!

!!!

HOP

FWUUN

FWUP

SSS

NOT BAD!

THE WAY HE ANTICIPATES MY EVERY MOVE... THE ACCURACY OF HIS TARGETING... HE SEES ME!

FWAM

TWANG SHM SKWEEEE TOK

RRRRRR

FWUM

TWANG

FWUNNG

STRING?

VNG

A SHARINGAN "WINDMILL" -- A THREE-PRONGED ATTACK!

SMAT

GOINNNG

!

.....

HE DID IT!!

HE MEANS TO USE THE ART OF FIRE-- DRAGON-FLAME TECHNIQUE

HAH!

FWUP

HEH... SUCH A SHAME...

HE FLAWLESSLY PERCEIVED MY ESCAPE ROUTE AND STRUCK ALONG A PATH I DIDN'T SEE MYSELF...

SIZZLE

!!

FLASH

SIZZLE

TRULY, A WORTHY SUCCESSOR TO THE HONORED NAME OF CLAN UCHIHA!

THAT ONE SO YOUNG SHOULD HAVE SUCH MASTERY OF THE SHARINGAN MIRROR EYE POWER...!

PUFF

HUFF

...I WANT YOU, AFTER ALL...!

FLAKE

IN FACT... I BELIEVE...

SHRED

IT'S MARVELOUS FUN, HAVING YOU SHOW ME ALL YOUR TRICKS!

カッ

スッ

SASUKE...!

TUFI

TUFI

タッ

VNNN

YOU CAN SEE-- AND CONCEAL-- THINGS WITH THOSE EYES OF YOURS THAT ITACHI HIMSELF NEVER DREAMED OF!

スッ

YOU REALLY ARE *HIS* BROTHER, AREN'T YOU?

TAK

WE'RE PARALYZED!!

カッ

カッ

カッ

GASP

GASP

JUST WHO THE HECK ARE YOU?!

!!

OH!!

THE SCROLL!

...THEN PASS THIS EXAM AS QUICKLY AS YOU CAN!

ボウ

I'M OROCHIMARU, THE GIANT SNAKE.

IF YOU'D EVER LIKE A REMATCH...

FWUM SIZZLE

PERHAPS NOT... BUT WISHING WON'T CHASE ME AWAY.

WH-WHAT ARE YOU BABBLING ON ABOUT?!

WE NEVER WANT TO SEE YOUR FACE AGAIN!

I'LL SEE YOU AGAIN, IF YOU MANAGE TO DEFEAT THE THREE OTONIN SOUND NINJA WHO ANSWER TO ME.

CHOMP

ガッ!!

!!

!!

ZUNG

ズオオオオ

!!!

SHLUK

!!

スチャ

SHHM

ミュル

...IN THE QUEST FOR POWER!

I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AGAIN, SASUKE...

SHF

シュウ

.....

KNOT

OH!

WH-WHAT...? EVERYTHING... HURTS!

ズ!!

じわぁ～

!!

キ

CLENCH NNNN

KRAK SSHH POP SHFF RRR

JUST A LITTLE SOMETHING TO REMEMBER ME BY...

パキ ズバズ パキ

ズゥゥ…

WHAT DID YOU DO TO SASUKE?!

パキ

OWW!

パキキ

キッ

KRAK POP THROB

SASUKE!!!

!!

ドクン

AAUGH!!

!?

ナンバー

50 : I'VE GOT TO!!

一生愛の人生よ！

AND THE LOVE OF A LIFETIME

UNH...!

AAAAAAAAAAAAH!!!

YOU HEAR ME?!

UHH...

HANG ON, SASUKE!!

.....

S-SASUKE...?!

AGH!!

UNH...

ギュウウウ

AIIEEE!!

-:SOB:-

ガリガリガリ

!!

URG...

NARUTO... SASUKE IS...

キョロキョロ

NARUTO...

ARGH!!

.....

ﾋﾞｸ

OHH...

SOB

UNH...
OHH...

AIEEE

AIEEE-
EEE

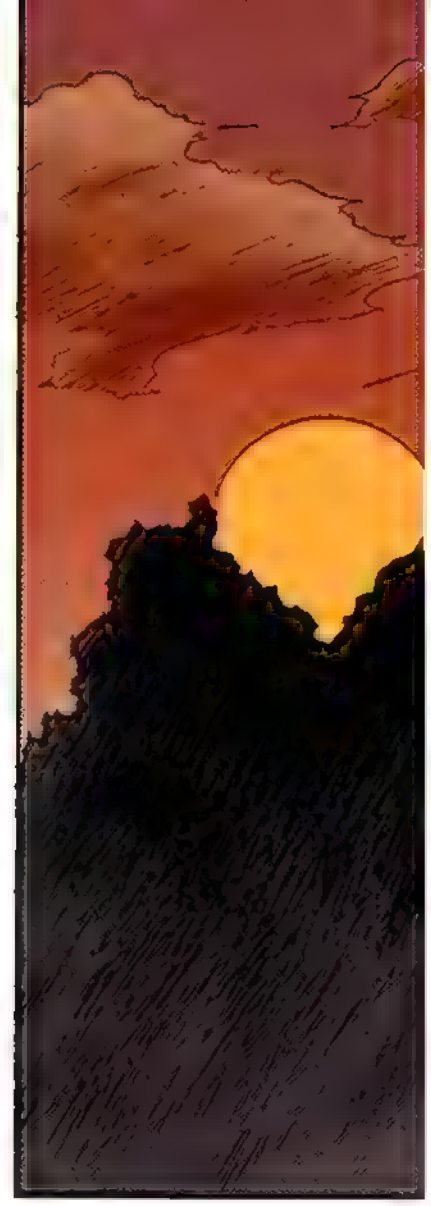
!!

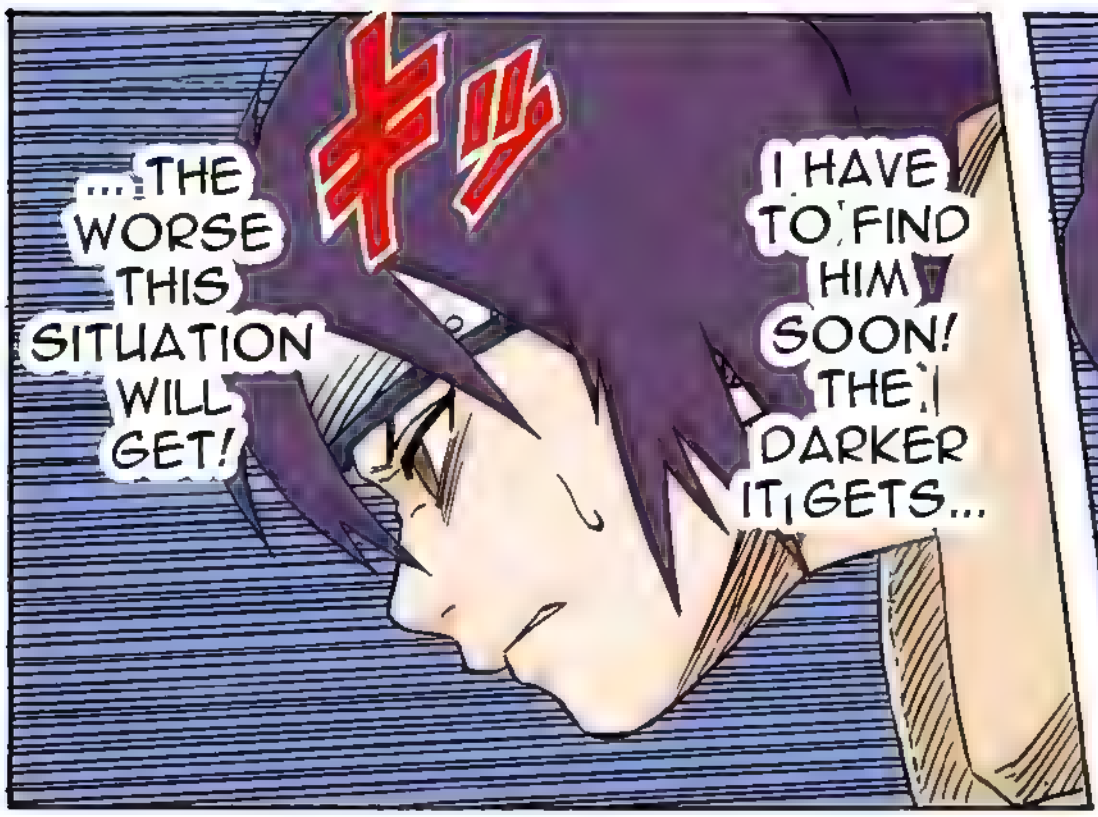
UNNH...

WH-WHAT SHOULD I DO...?!

I...

ARGH...




...THE WORSE THIS SITUATION WILL GET!
I HAVE TO FIND HIM SOON! THE DARKER IT GETS...

IT'S AREADY DUSK!!

WHAT'S HE PLAYING AT?!
THE QUESTION IS...
...WHY DID HE CHOOSE TO SHOW UP NOW?

IF IT REALLY IS YOU, THEN WE'LL END THIS RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW.

NOT THAT IT MATTERS ...

AND I'M GOING TO KILL YOU, EVEN IF IT COSTS ME MY LIFE!

AND IF I CAN'T MANAGE THAT, THEN...

BECAUSE YOU'VE BECOME A BINGO BOOK, LEVEL 5 THREAT-- THE WORST KIND OF SECURITY RISK.

... WHAT I LEARNED FROM YOU..!

IT'S MY DUTY. IT'S WHAT I LEARNED FROM MY GREATEST TEACHER EVER...

...AT LEAST I'LL SLOW YOU DOWN UNTIL THE BLACK OPS TEAMS CAN GET HERE.

...ISN'T IT, OROCHIMARU?

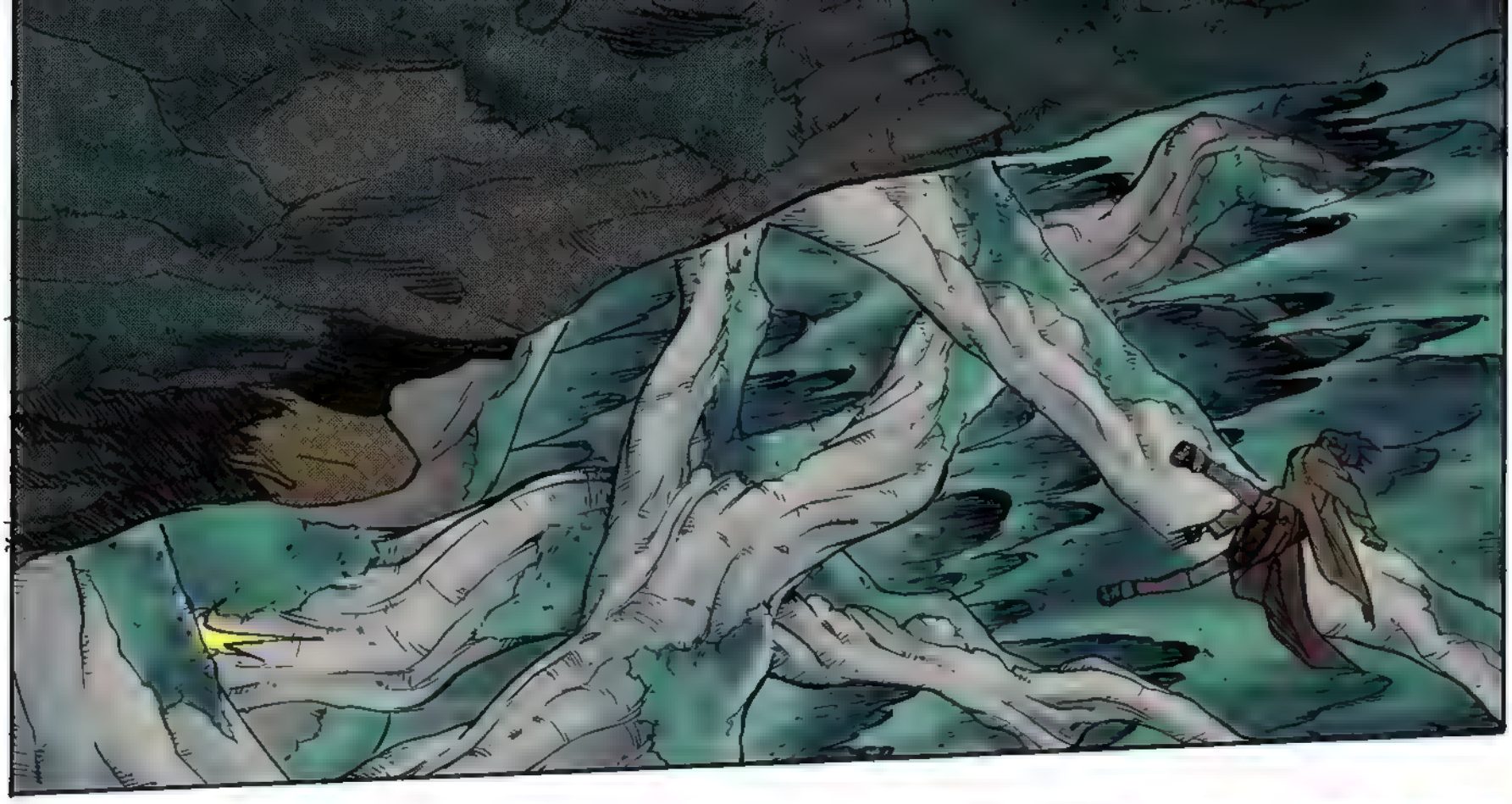
IMPOSSIBLE...!

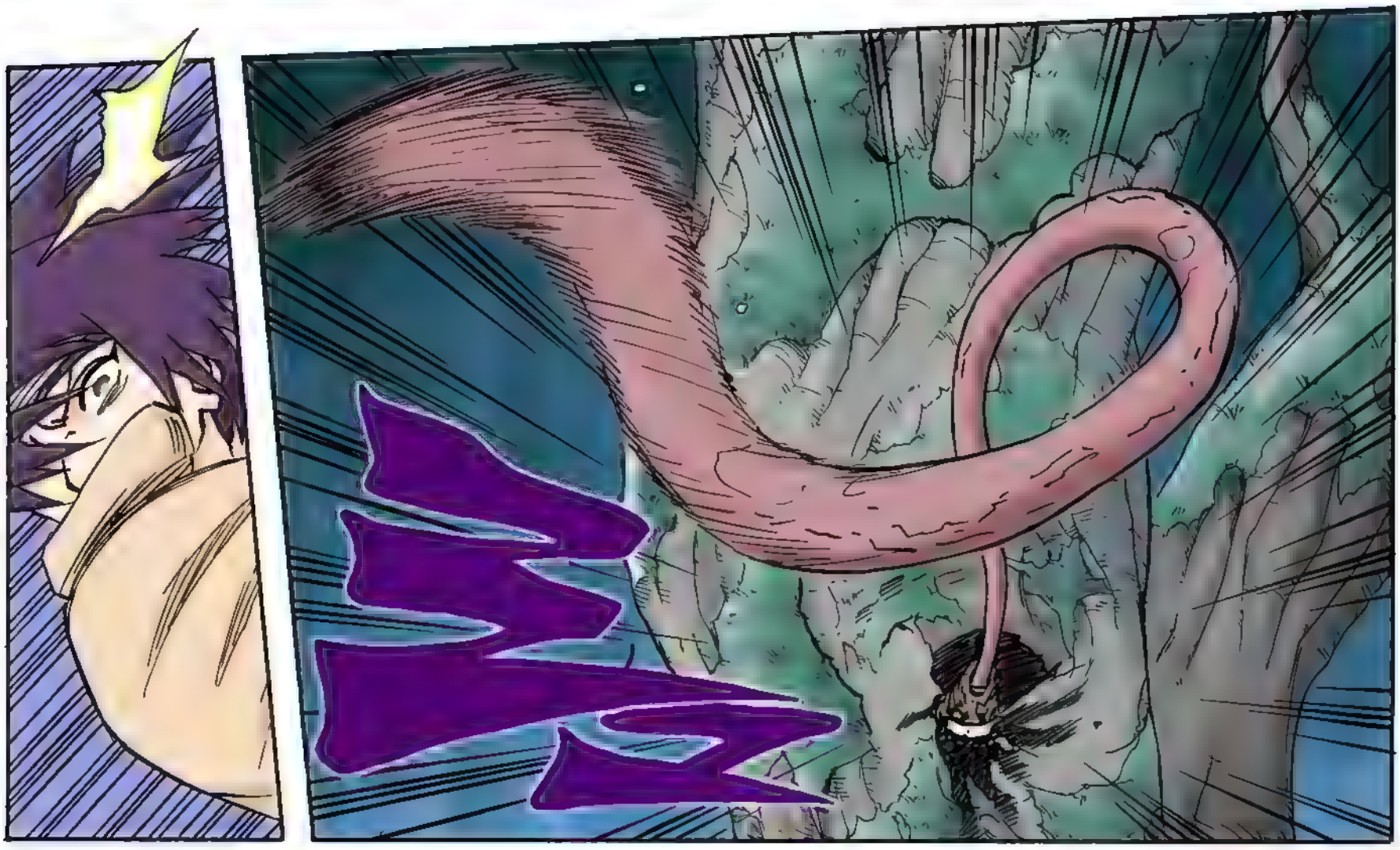
スッ

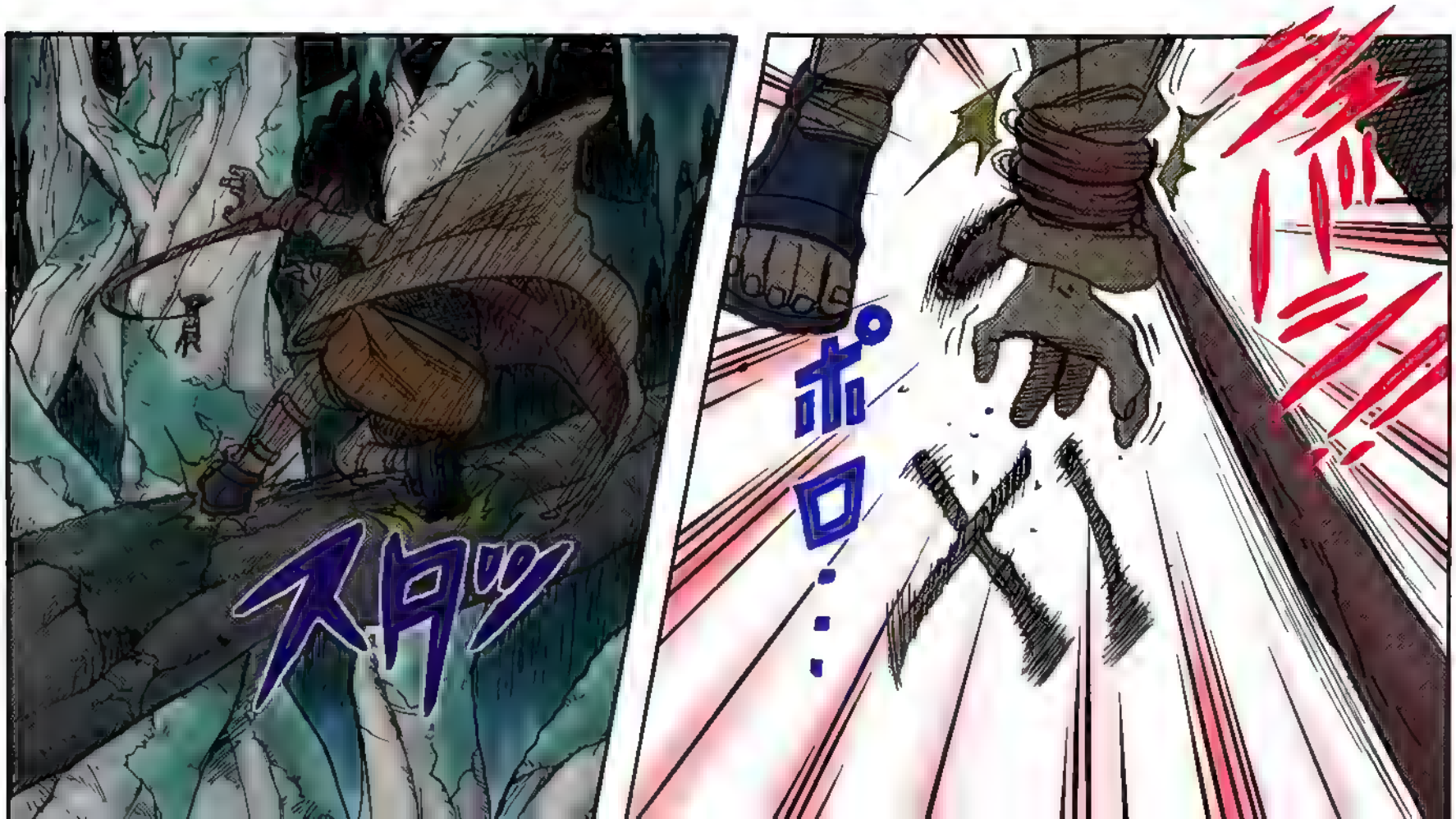
ガッ

ズシュ

ズシュ






スタッ
ポロ…

カッ!!

しゅるる…!!

しゅるる

ガッ

YOU CAN'T ESCAPE... "STRIKING SNAKE" TECHNIQUE!

ズズズ

ピキ

ピキ

ピキピキ

ニヤ

ヒーン

ドッ!!

バキバキバキ

OHH!

ドン

!!

AGH!

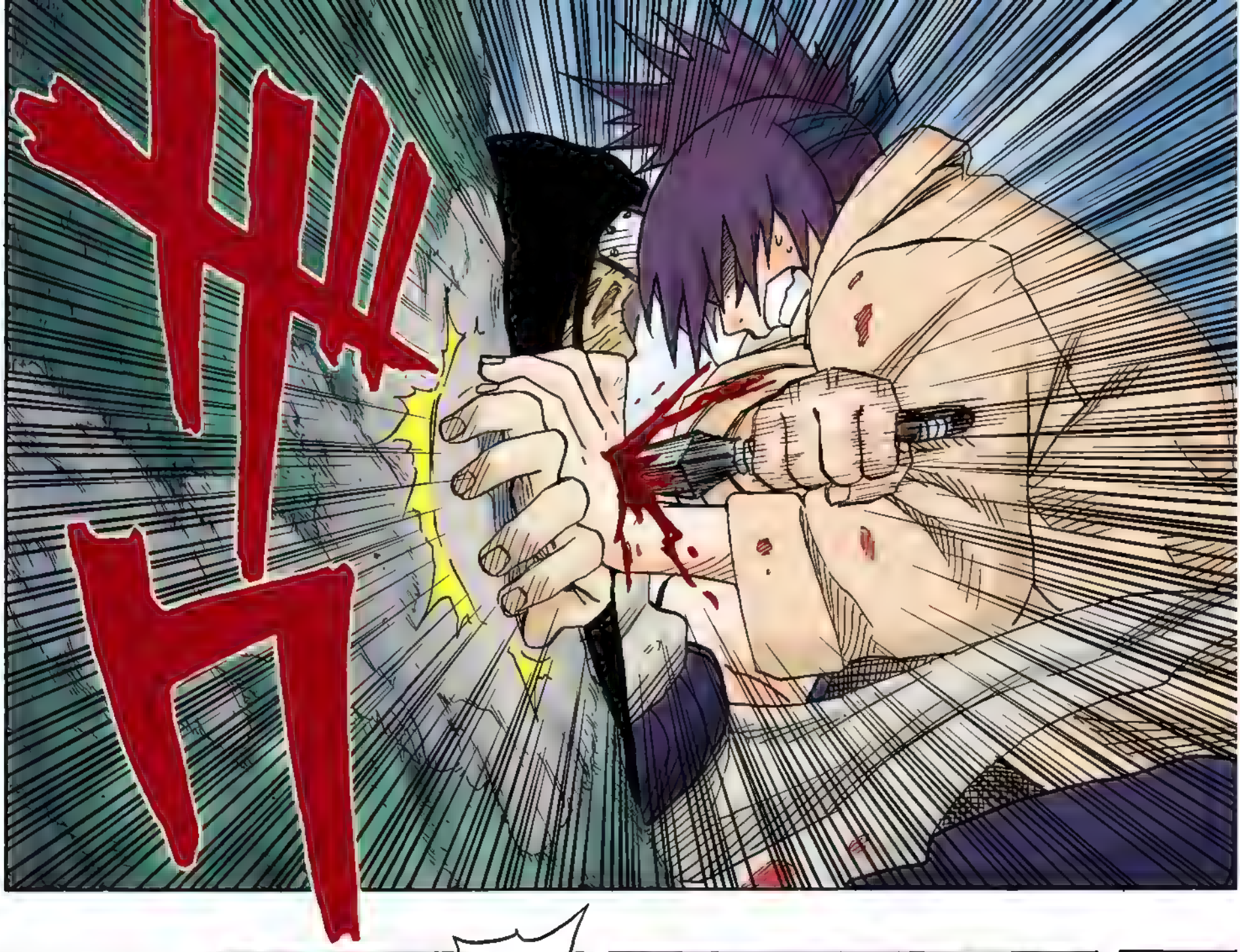
AHH!!

カ

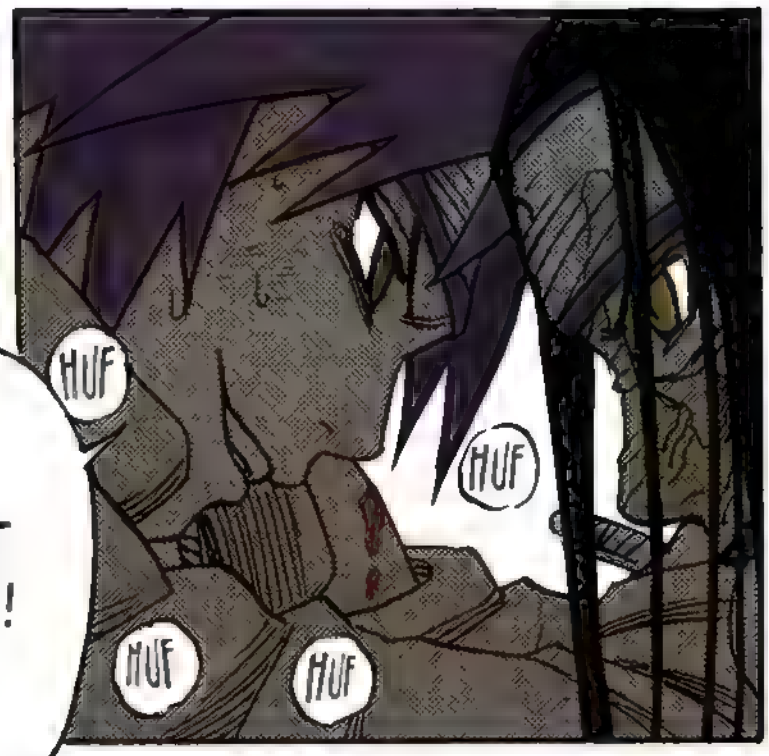
カルニ

ジンジン

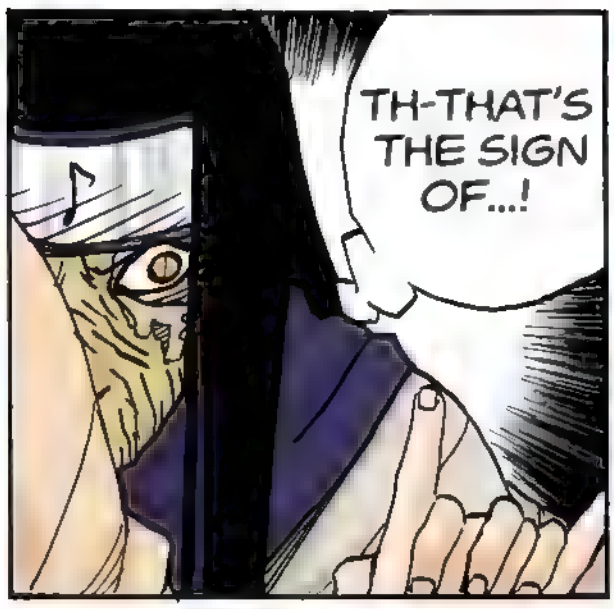
カ


!!!!

OROCHIMARU, COULD YOU LEND ME A HAND? THE LEFT ONE?
!!
GOT YOU!


HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF

THAT'S RIGHT... WE'RE GOING TO DIE TOGETHER. HERE.


TH-THAT'S THE SIGN OF...!

!!

BUT THAT'S A DOPPEL-GANGER..

NINJA TECHNIQUE-- "TWIN SNAKES KILL EACH OTHER"!

YOU MEAN TO COMMIT SUICIDE? HOW PRECIOUS!

!!

ボ"

SINCE, FOR THE TIME BEING, IT APPEARS YOU HAVE BECOME ONE OF THIS VILLAGE'S JÔNIN NINJA ELITE...

!!

WHY ARE YOU HERE? WHY NOW?!

WHY?

SNAP

ズキン

ガッ

YOU MUSTN'T JUST...

...SQUANDER EVERY SECRET I TAUGHT YOU.

...ONE MIGHT ALMOST SUSPECT YOU'RE NOT GLAD TO SEE ME!

FOR OLD TIMES' SAKE, OF COURSE, MY DEAREST ANKO! BUT FROM YOUR COLD REACTION...

MY TARGETS ARE ANY NINJA OF THE VILLAGE WHO DISPLAY EXTRA-ORDINARY ABILITIES.

HEAVENS, NO! I LACK THE HUBRIS-- AND THE PROPER NUMBER OF SUBORDINATES-- TO ATTEMPT ANYTHING OF THAT MAGNITUDE!

OOOH...

WHAT IS IT? AN ASSAS-SINATION ATTEMPT? ARE YOU AFTER LORD HOKAGE?

OHH!

IN FACT, I JUST LEFT MY MARK AS A LITTLE PARTING GIFT...

UHH...

UNH...

THERE'S A NINE OUT OF 10 CHANCE THAT YOU'RE RIGHT, OF COURSE...

BUT JUST THE SAME...

HE MAY SURVIVE... AS YOU DID.

UHH...!

YOU MONSTER!

IT'S A TIME BOMB... HE'LL BE DEAD IN NO TIME!

HUF

HUF

HUF

...ON ONE OF THE BOYS.

...ARE YOU STILL ANGRY THAT I USED YOU AND ABANDONED YOU?

OH, MY DEAR! JEALOUS? AFTER ALL THIS TIME...

...A CHARGE?

AND THE THOUGHT OF HIM GIVES YOU...

HE COULD BE THE PERFECT VESSEL... TO SUCCEED ME.

HIS FACE AND HIS BODY ARE VERY BEAUTIFUL.

UNGH...

THIS CHILD SEEMS QUITE EXCEPTIONAL... UNLIKE YOU.

HIS BLOODLINE IS THAT OF THE UCHIHA CLAN...

……

AND DON'T GET ANY CLEVER IDEAS ABOUT TRYING TO END THIS EXAM.

ﾌﾞｵﾝﾌﾞｵﾝ

UGH...

I FORESEE INTERESTING TIMES...

...ASSUMING HE SURVIVES.

ﾌﾞﾝ

...IT WILL SPELL THE END OF KONOHA VILLAGE!

IF SOMETHING SHOULD HAPPEN TO ROB ME OF MY ENJOYMENT...

ボーン

THREE OF MY PROTÉGÉS HAVE TAKEN THE PLACES OF THREE OF YOUR OWN.

I PLAN TO SAVOR THIS.

スｯ

HUF

HUF

IT'LL PROBABLY START TO GET LIGHT IN THE NEXT HOUR OR SO.

WE WERE ABLE TO USE OUR FIRST DAY TO SECURE FOOD AND WATER.

LET'S SPLIT UP...

...AND RECONNOITER FOR THE NEXT HALF HOUR.

BUT WHATEVER YOU FIND, WHEN THE TIME IS UP...

...MAKING THIS THE BEST TIME TO ACT.

MOST OF THE TEAMS WILL BE RESTING NOW...

ROGER!!

OKAY!

GOT IT?!

...BE SURE YOU'RE BACK HERE.

LET'S GO!!

GOOD...!

UNNH...

...HIS FEVER'S STILL SO HIGH!

HIS BREATHING IS IMPROVING, BUT...

UH...

I...

HEH HEH... THERE THEY ARE!

I'VE GOT TO PROTECT THEM BOTH!

キッ

I'VE ...

IF THE OTHER TWO GET IN OUR WAY, WE CAN TAKE 'EM OUT, RIGHT?

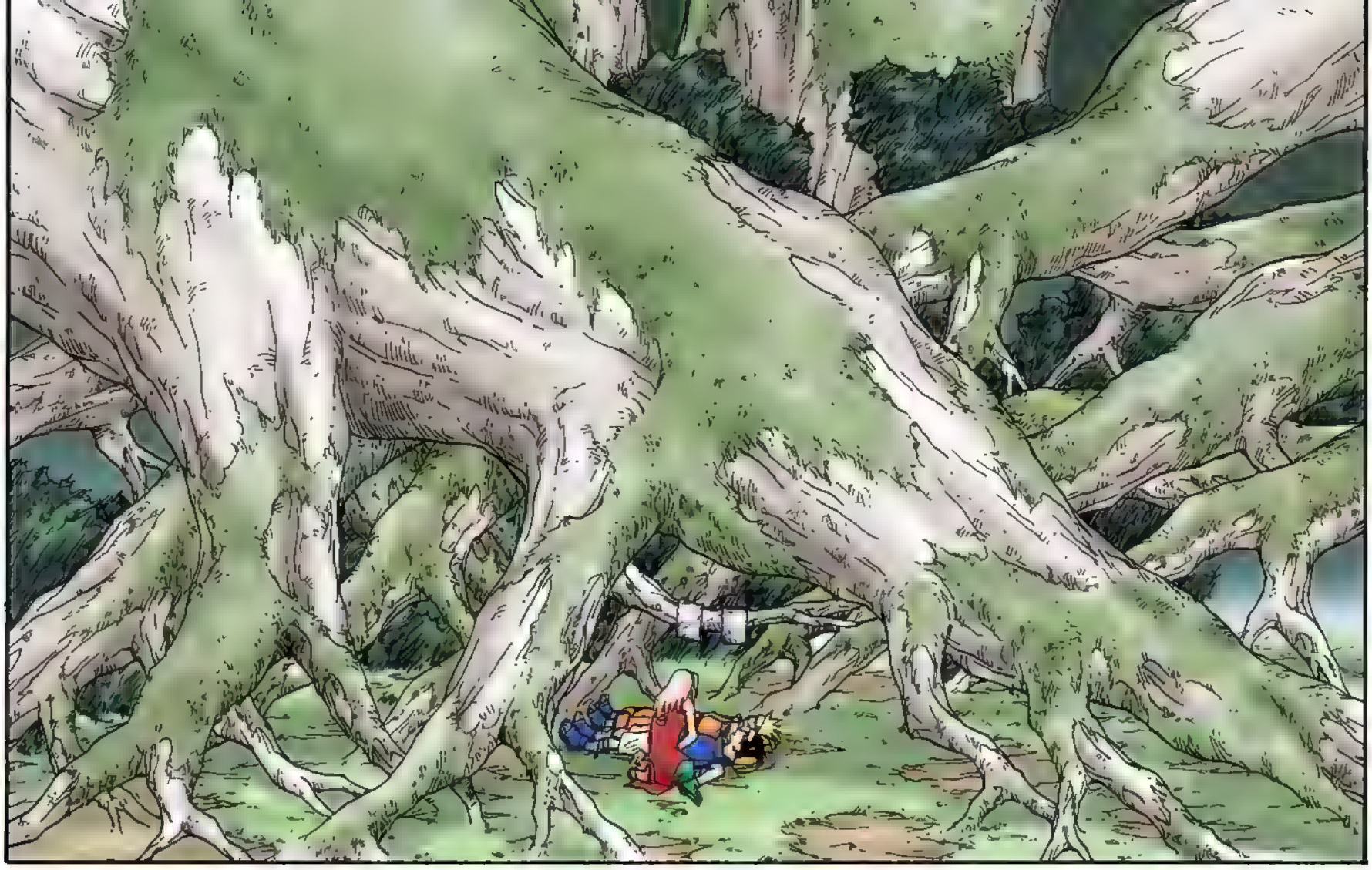
AS LORD OROCHIMARU COMMANDED, WE'LL STRIKE AT DAWN!

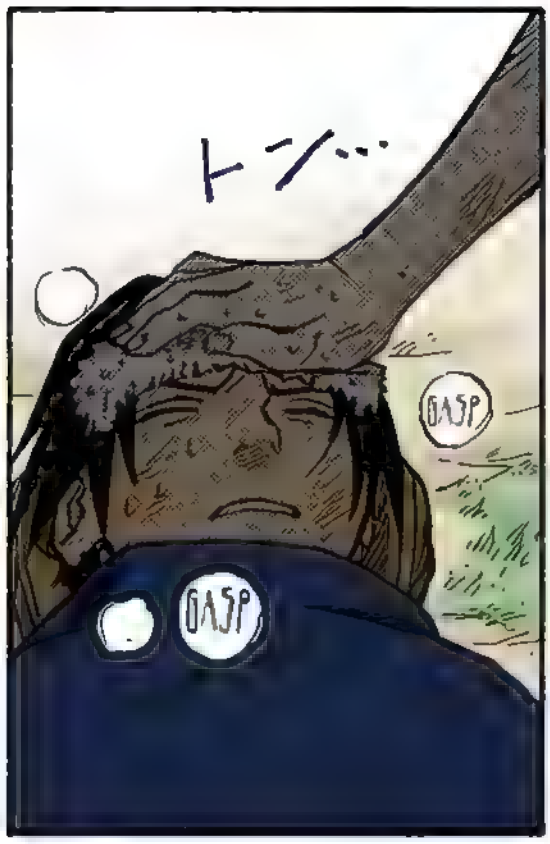
OF COURSE!

AND OUR TARGET IS UCHIHA SASUKE!

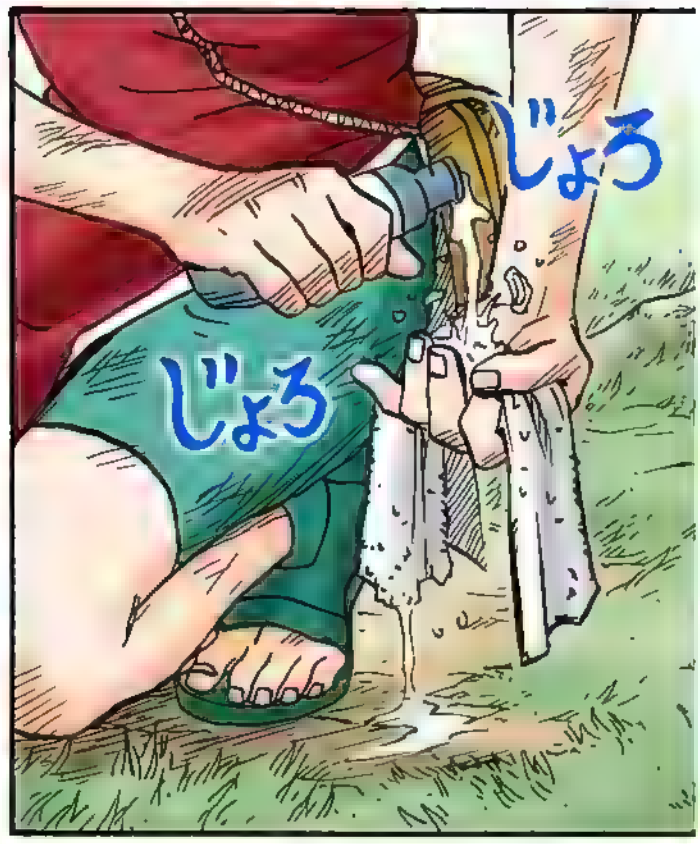
ナンバー
51：

BEAUTY IS THE BEAST!!




トン…
GASP
GASP

ﾊｯ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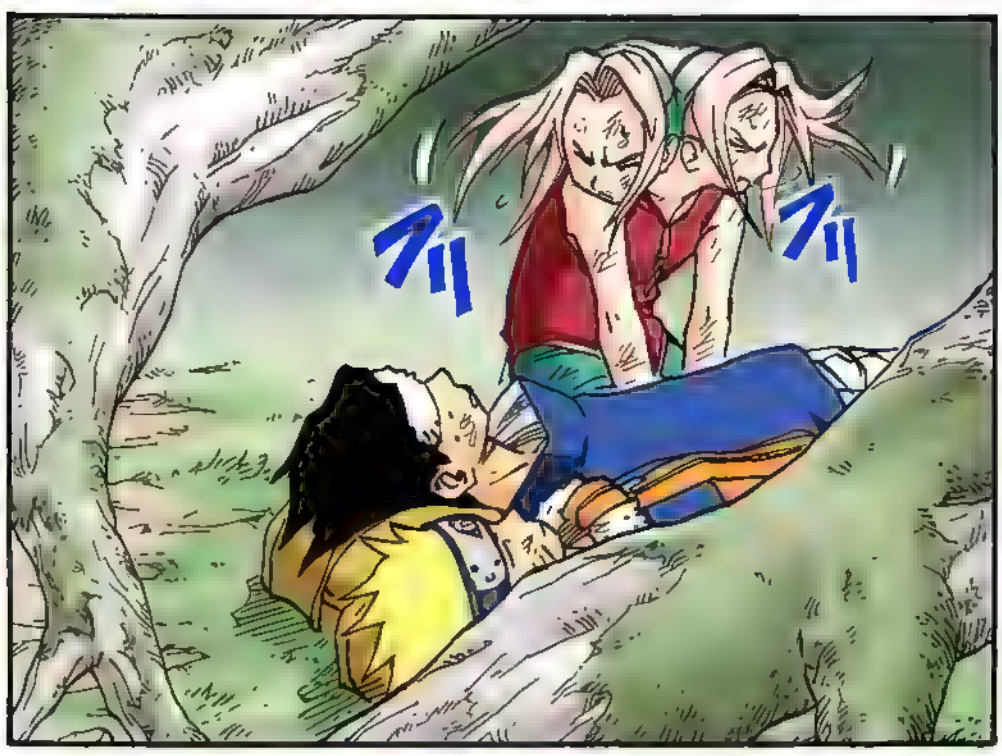
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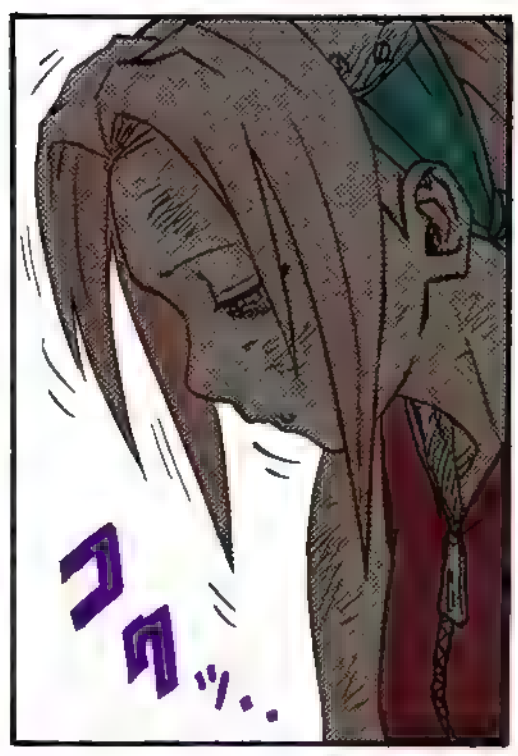

ﾌｯ..

IT'S ALREADY DAWN?!

OH!

I CAN'T LET MYSELF SLEEP...

.....

ガサ

!!

ガサ..

ビクッ!

ドクン

ドクン

カタ

カタ

ドクン

A SQUIRREL ...?

!

WHAT ARE YOU UP TO, SCARING ME LIKE THAT?!

ガサ

キョロ・・・

ガサ

ガサ

ピョン

HEY!

カチ

THAT WAS CLOSE. THAT WAS TOO CLOSE!

ピョコン

ピョコン

!!

ガサ

SHE'S PRETTY TIGHTLY WOUND.

I WONDER IF SHE NOTICED THE LETTER BOMB WE STUCK ON THE SQUIRREL!

NO...

THAT'S NOT IT...

SO...

WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?

ガサ

...WE'LL HAVE TO GET CLOSER TO FIND OUT.

...?

WHAT THEN, DOSU? WHAT'S GOING ON?

ドドド

トン

トン

トン

ヒュ

ヒュ

ヒュ

BUT IF I MISS EVEN ONE...

...THEN SAKURA WILL FALL IN LOVE WITH ME!!

ALL 20 OF THESE LEAVES BEFORE ANY OF THEM HITS THE GROUND...

IF I CAN CATCH...

ゴゥ

AND SHE'LL PROBABLY MAKE FUN OF MY HAIR!

...THEN MY LOVE FOR HER WILL NEVER BE REQUITED!

LEE CREATES HIS OWN TRAINING EXERCISES, WHEREVER HE MAY BE.

YAAAH!

ドゴ

ARGH!

ズズ

IT'S...!!

!!

ヒラ

!!

JUST ONE MORE TRY...

ドドカ

SKREEE

SKREE

バタバタ

シュボボ

SHRED

SKREE

JUST IN THE NICK OF TIME!

A LETTER BOMB... ON A VERY SHORT TIMER.

モワ

モワ

WHO WOULD DO SOMETHING SO CRUEL?!

!

ヴァシャ

ズウ

HOW'D HE SPOT US WHEN WE HID SO FAST?!

COME OUT OF HIDING... UNLESS YOU'RE A COWARD.

ドキ

ドキ

キド

WOW... CAN I HAVE YOUR AUTOGRAPH?

カ"キ カ"キ

OH. IT'S YOU THREE...

OH! WHAT AN HONOR! LORD HYUGA NEJI, LAST YEAR'S ROOKIE OF THE YEAR... FANCY MEETING YOU HERE!

TIME FOR PLAN B!

MY MASTERFUL PLAN A-- HIDING UNTIL ANYONE WHO MIGHT HURT US IS GONE-- HAS FAILED!

STUPID PAIN IN THE NECK... FINDING US LIKE THAT!

HIFF

I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW LONG...

...I'VE DREAMT OF MEETING YOU!

GET A LOAD OF THIS!

IT MAKES ME SO MAD!!

WHY? WHY DIDN'T HE FIND ME SEXY? WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?!

I TRIED TO TELL YOU HE WOULDN'T GO FOR IT!

.....

GET LOST.

スタ スタ

H-HOW COULD HE KNOW THAT... UNLESS HE DOES HAVE EYES IN THE BACK OF HIS HEAD?!

1コ

O-OF COURSE NOT!

ワコ

DOES THAT FIST YOU'RE SHAKING IN MY DIRECTION...

...MEAN YOU WANT TO FIGHT ME?

ピタ.

HEY...

ガサ ガサ ガサ

O-OKAY!

HMPH... THEY'RE LIKE COCK-ROACHES.

I WOULDN'T DEMEAN MYSELF BY TAKING A SCROLL FROM LOSERS LIKE YOU.

IT WOULD MAKE ME A LAUGHING-STOCK.

THEN GET LOST!

キミ

I DOUBT WE'LL FIND ANYONE WEAKER THAN US!

LET'S GO SEE IF WE CAN PICK OFF SOME WEAKLINGS!

YANK

HUF

PUF

HUF

PUF

HUF

PUF

HUF

PUF

カヒュー

!!

TH-THEY'RE...!

ドーン

!!

ビク

HEH HEH... YOU'VE BEEN UP ALL NIGHT STANDING GUARD, EH?

AS OF NOW, YOU'RE OFF DUTY. JUST WAKE SASUKE FOR US.

THE THREE OF US WANT TO TAKE HIM ON.

I KNOW THAT SOME GUY NAMED OROCHIMARU IS THE ONE WHO'S BEEN PULLING ALL THE STRINGS...

SO WHAT DO YOU WANT?!

WH-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!

プル プル

ドカン

プル プル

...?

!!?

!!?

!!?

GET OUT OF HERE! GO!!

WITH SASUKE IN THIS CONDITION... NOW YOU WANT TO FIGHT HIM?!

WHAT DOES THIS MARK ON SASUKE'S NECK MEAN?!

WHATEVER... I CAN'T WALK AWAY AFTER HEARING THAT!

I'LL DESTROY YOU, GIRL... AND YOUR LITTLE SASUKE, TOO!

.....?

I WONDER WHAT OROCHIMARU'S UP TO?!

HMM..

WAIT, ZAKU!

WAIT? WHY?

.....

FRESHLY TURNED STONES, EXPOSED SOIL...

ｽﾀｽﾀ

GRASS IN A PLACE IT WOULD NEVER GROW...

SHF

IT'S OBVIOUS...

BUT WHAT'S THE POINT OF LAYING THEM IF YOU LEAVE EVIDENCE THAT WARNS YOUR PREY?

SOMEONE'S BEEN SETTING BOOBY TRAPS...

RRRIP

HM?

GRR...

SO... THE PERSON WHO THREW THE KUNAI KNIFE WAS TRYING TO STOP THE SQUIRREL FROM SPRINGING THE TRAP?

...SO LET'S ELIMINATE HER FIRST.

IT'S AMATEURISH!

WELL, THE GIRL IS NO USE TO US...

スッ

スッ

SHLUK

!!

ﾄﾞﾄﾞﾄﾞﾄﾞﾄﾞﾄﾞ

Nooo o!

THE TRAP WAS ABOVE US ALL ALONG!

A LOG?!

TAp

VERY FUNNY!!

POK

POK

POK

POK

AH

TH

!!

TO BE HONEST... YOU KNOW YOU'RE A COMPLETE NO-TALENT, DON'T YOU?

HUH?!

STOP DOGGING IT AND START WORKING AT IT!

IT'S AN INSULT BEING UNDER-ESTIMATED BY SLACKERS LIKE YOU!

Hi

KON-
OHA
HURRI-
CANE
TECHN-
IQUE!!!

hi

ヒ〃ク!!

!?

!!?

ACK!

ALL

LOOK AT WHO'S TALKING...!

.....

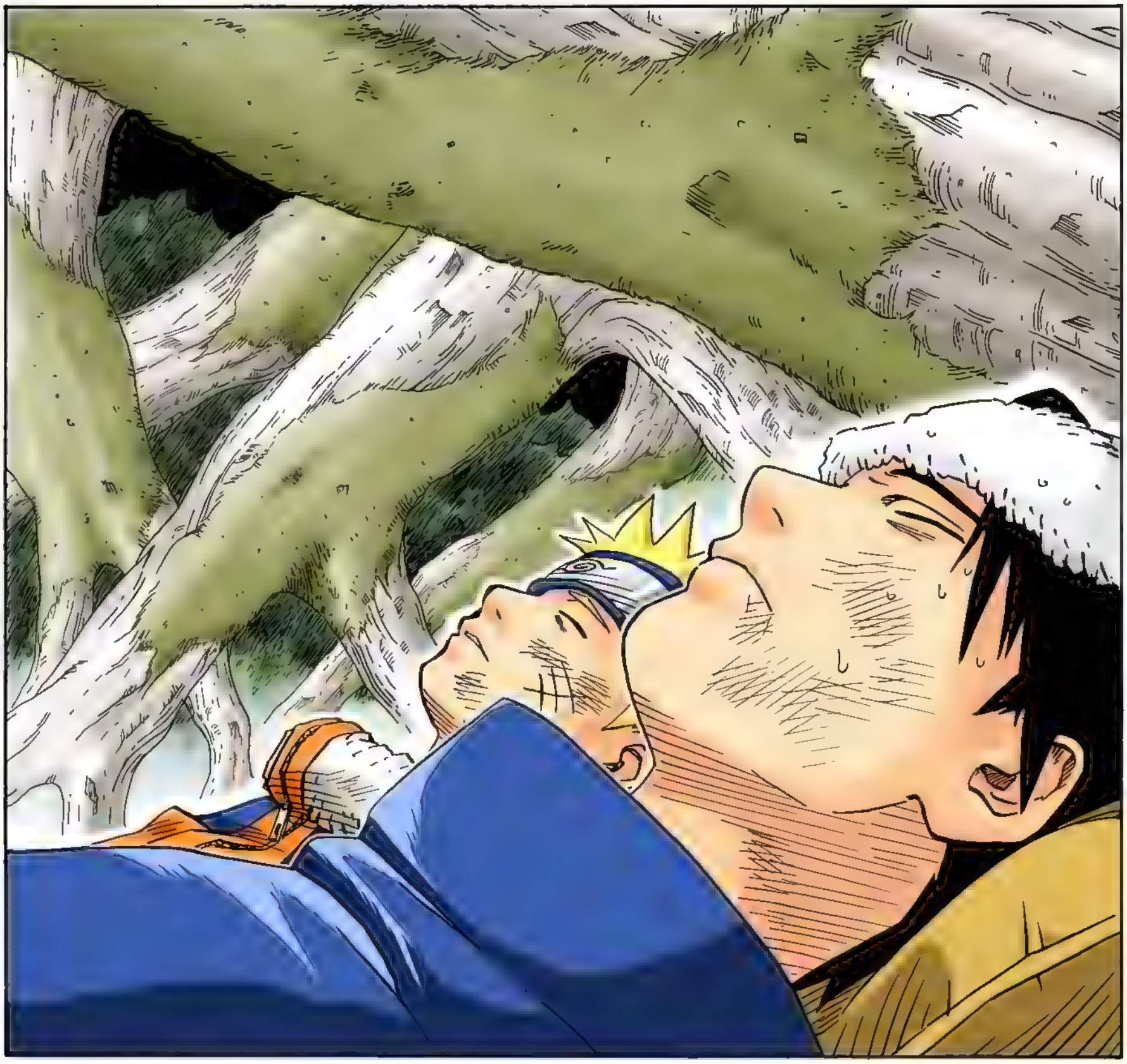
WHOA... IS THAT THE GUY WHO...?

TRY TAKING YOUR OWN ADVICE!!

...ROCK LEE!

KONOHA'S HANDSOME BLUE BEAST...

WH- WHO ARE YOU...?!



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52：

THE PRINCIPLES OF USE!!

COLORED MANGA.COM

...BECAUSE YOU NEEDED ME. AND I ALWAYS WILL!

...!

WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?

I CAME...

ACTUALLY, IT'S THANKS TO MY LITLE FRIEND HERE...

GO ON NOW.

!

COLORED
ANGA.COM

スッ…

…

HUH?

…

I PROMISED WHEN WE MET...

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU. YOU'RE A LIFESAVER!

…TO PROTECT YOU... UNTIL DEATH DO US PART!

COLORED MANGA.COM

...

I GET IT, MASTER GUY!

YES! I UNDER-STAND!

I'LL PROTECT YOU WITH MY LIFE!

...!

ZAKU... LITTLE SASUKE IS ALL YOURS!

IT CAN'T BE HELPED...

POK

...SAKURA DOESN'T HAVE ANY MORE FIGHT LEFT IN HER, EITHER.

FROM THE LOOKS OF IT...

THEY'RE AS GOOD AS DEAD!

COLORED MANGA.COM

!!!

HE'LL MAKE AN EXCELLENT PLAYTHING.

THIS UNIBROW KID IS OBVIOUSLY A VIRTUOSO OF THE TAIJUTSU PHYSICAL ARTS.

!!

!!

!!

!!?

!!

COLORED BY MANGA.COM

!!

HMF!

...

...SO STRONG!!

HE'S...

!!

I'VE SEEN YOU USE THESE MOVES BEFORE.

SO, I'D BE WASTING MY TIME DUCKING AS THOUGH YOUR ATTACKS WERE REAL.

THIS IS SOME KIND OF ILLUSION, RIGHT?!

COLORED MANGA.COM

IT'S A GAMBLE, BUT IF I TAKE THEM DOWN ONE AT A TIME...

MY STRENGTH SHOULD BE ENOUGH TO BEAT THEM!

BUT THERE'S THREE OF THEM AND ONE OF ME, SO THEY HAVE THE ADVANTAGE.

HOW CAN WE PICK OFF THE WEAK WHEN WE CAN'T FIND ANY WEAKLINGS?!

GAAAAAH!

カ〃カ〃

...BUT THEY'RE TEAMED UP WITH SASUKE-- THE BEST OF THE BEST!

NARUTO AND SAKURA ARE TOTAL LOSERS...

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, YOU IDIOT?!

...BESIDES NARUTO'S TEAM, OF COURSE!

WELL ...

...

ヒョコ

WHAT?!

!!

COLORED MANGA.COM

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT, SORRY FOR DISSING YOUR IDOL!

ギロ!!

NOW, WHY IS THAT?

MAYBE YOUR PRECIOUS SASUKE IS BETTER IN THEORY THAN HE IS IN PRACTICE!

...THAT GIRL IS A TOTAL PAIN. EVERY TIME I OPEN MY MOUTH ABOUT SASUKE, SHE GOES OFF ON ME!

AND SAKURA'S DEFENDING HIM.

!!

キロ

HEY! SASUKE'S UNCONSCIOUS!

BUT SAKURA? SHE'S A COMPLETE WIMP!

THERE'S NO WAY ANYONE HERE IS GOING TO BEAT SASUKE.

OH!

!!?

...

IT'S NOT LIKE LEE TO KEEP US WAITING!

イラ イラ

NOT HIM!

IT'S ODD... HE'S USUALLY SUCH A STICKLER ABOUT PUNCTUALITY.

...I WONDER IF HE RAN INTO TROUBLE...

RIGHT!

HUH HUH

BUT WE SHOULD STILL GO LOOK FOR HIM.

NO WAY.

COLORED MANGA.COM

I FINALLY...

...GOT THE HANG OF IT!!

HUF

HUF

HUF

I DID IT!

HUF

HUF

DON'T GO OVERBOARD!

...ONLY LEE WAS ABLE TO MASTER THIS TECHNIQUE, EH?

ULTI-MATE-LY...

YIKES...

HUF

HUF

HUF

I REALLY, TRULY DID IT!!

I DID IT! ME!!

I DID IT!!

WOO-HOO!!!

ALL RIGHT, LEE...

HEY...

PLEASE SHARE YOUR WISDOM!

YES, SIR... WHAT IS IT?!

NOW THAT I'VE GOT YOUR ATTENTION, LEARN THIS WELL!

HUF

HUF

ドゴッ

ドカッ

YAAAH!

...

...

...

NOW THAT YOU'VE MASTERED THE *LOTUS* TECHNIQUE...

...IT WILL BE CLASSIFIED AS ONE OF THE FORBIDDEN ARTS!

HUH?!

!!?

IT'S AN ART THAT DRAWS ITS POWER DIRECTLY FROM THE ENERGIES LOCKED WITHIN THE WIELDER'S CELLULAR STRUCTURE...

...SO WHEN YOU CALL UPON IT, YOU'RE SACRIFICING A PART OF YOURSELF!

WH-WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

!!

IF ANYONE WERE TO EMPLOY ANYTHING EVEN CLOSE TO 100% OF THE STRENGTH IN HIS MUSCLES...

NORMALLY, HUMAN BEINGS UTILIZE A MERE 20% OF THEIR OWN MUSCULAR ENERGY.

...PUSHING HIS OWN BODY TO THE LIMITS OF SAFETY ...AND BEYOND

DANGEROUS AS IT IS, THE RESULT IS THE RELEASE OF ENOUGH MUSCLE POWER TO ENABLE THE WIELDER TO PERFORM A SERIES OF GRUELING AND DEMANDING TASKS AT AN INCREDIBLE SPEED...

THE SECRET OF THIS TECHNIQUE IS IN OVERRIDING THAT INTERNAL CRANIAL SAFETY FEATURE GIVING THE WIELDER ACCESS TO ALL OF HIS OWN CHAKRA

...THE MUSCLES THEMSELVES WOULD QUICKLY BREAK DOWN ...SO THE BRAIN SETS A LIMIT ON HOW MUCH OF OUR OWN MUSCLE POWER WE ARE WILLING AND ABLE TO USE.

COLORED MANGA.COM

...ARE SEVERELY LIMITED.

THUS, THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH YOU MAY EMPLOY THIS TECHNIQUE...

LISTEN CLOSELY, AND INSTRUCT YOUR MUSCLES...

...LIKE SO...

SHU

.....

AND ...WHEN IS IT PER-MISSIBLE?

HUF

!

HUF

HAH!

MASTER GUY... THE TIME HAS SURELY COME FOR ME TO USE THE FORBIDDEN SKILL YOU TAUGHT ME...

...AND NOT HOLD BACK!

COLORED MANGA.COM

I'M DEFENDING THE LIFE OF SOMEONE WHO MEANS THE WORLD TO ME!

!!

!!

WHERE'D HE GO?!

!!

COLORED

I'M NOT DONE WITH YOU YET!

ドドドド

ドュ!!

OH, CRUD!

HE'S WIDE OPEN... CAN'T MAKE A MOVE TO DEFEND HIMSELF!!

TAKE THIS!

ガーッ

!!

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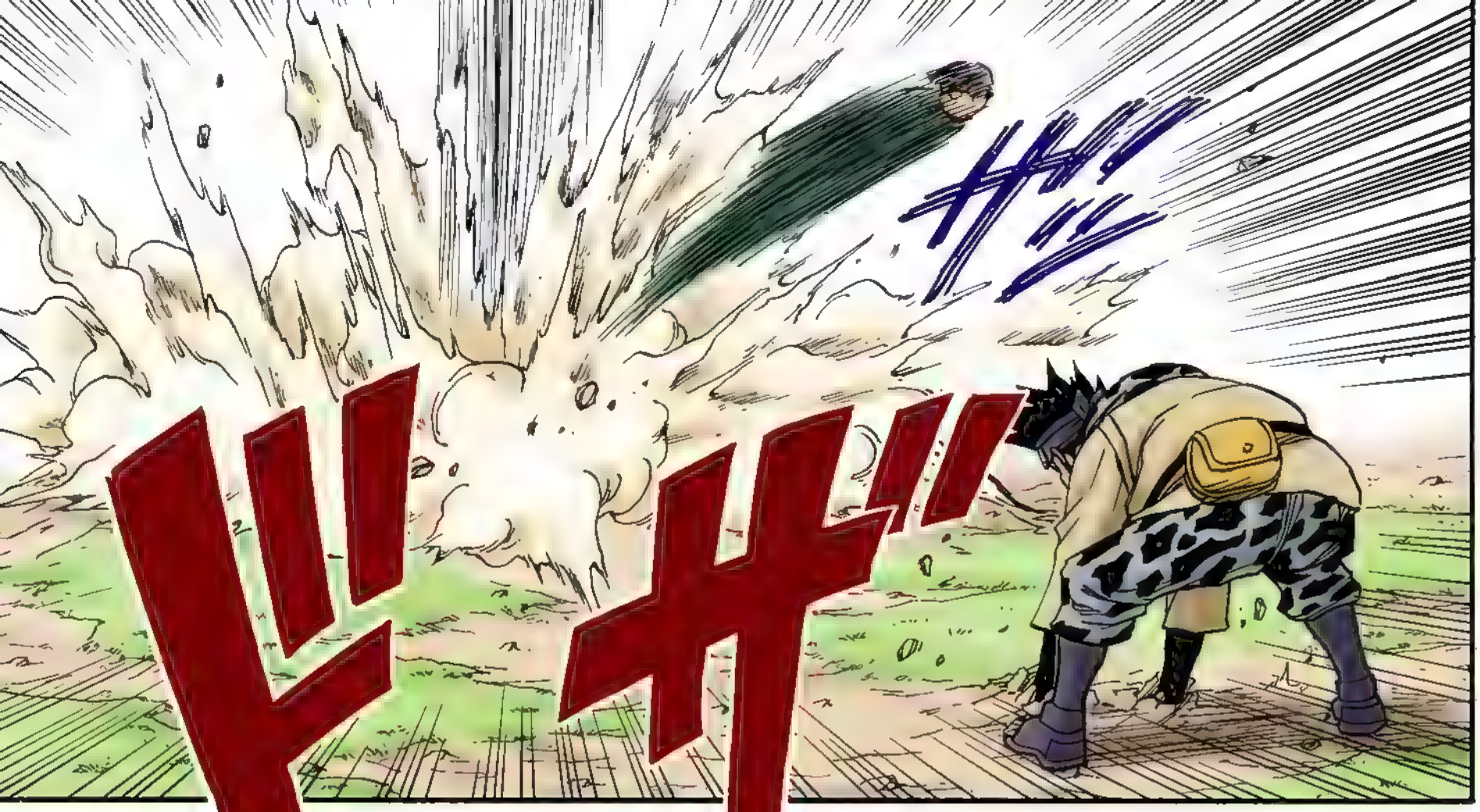
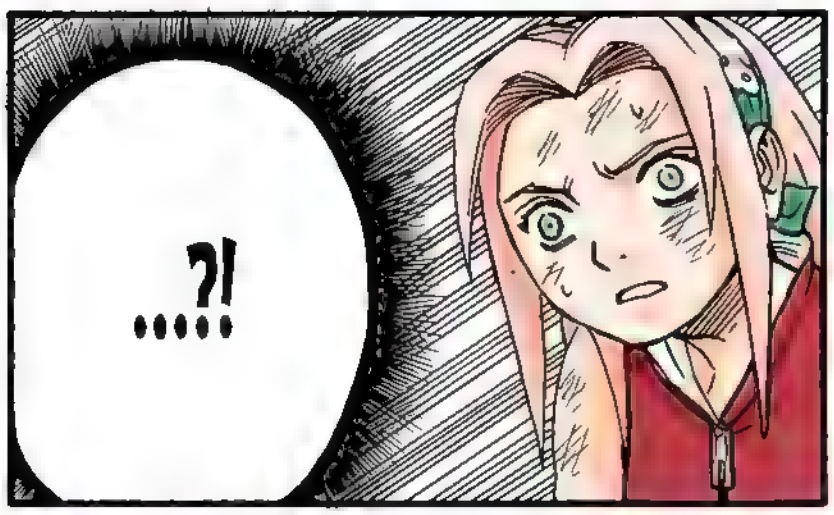
FORWARD LOTUS TECHNIQUE!

COLORED


HI!!
HI!!

THIS DOES NOT FEEL... GOOD...
!!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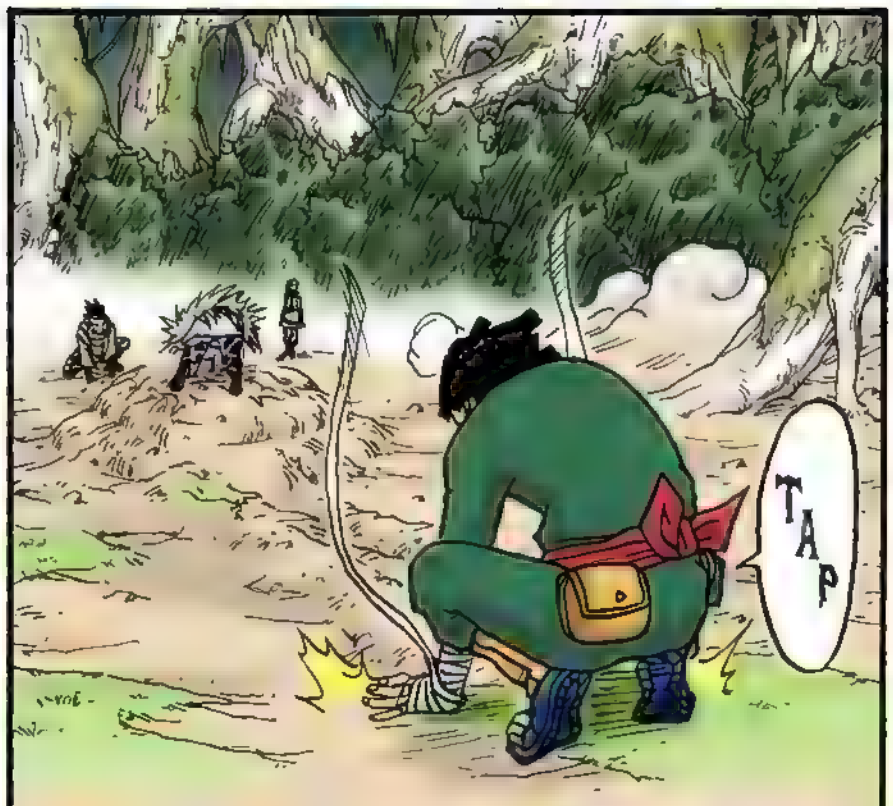
TAP

LOOKS LIKE I MADE IT...
WHEW...
COLORED
MANGA.COM

I MANAGED TO LAND ON A PILLOW OF SOIL ... AND IT STILL ALMOST WIPED ME OUT!

...WHAT A TERRIFYING TECHNIQUE...

NO WAY!

!!

ズゴゴゴゴ

グヴィ

OOF...

ズボ

BUT NOW... IT'S MY TURN...

AIII

!!

OH... THIS IS NOT GOOD...

HUF

THAT LAST MOVE I DID JUST TOASTED ME. I'VE GOT NOTHING!

COLORED MANGA.COM

ズバッ

YOUR MOVES MAY BE FAST...

!!

ガラ

!!

ガク

UHHN...!

AND MUSCLES ALONE CAN'T BREAK DOWN...

...THIS WALL OF SOUND!

...BUT OURS ARE SUPER-SONIC!

COLORED MANGA.COM

MEET KISHIMOTO MASASHI'S ASSISTANTS
PART FOUR
ASSISTANT NO. 4: KAWAHARA TAKEMI

PROFILE

- A TOTAL PERVERT
- BLABBERMOUTH
- A NATIVE OF KANSAI WITH A GREAT SENSE OF HUMOR. (HIS OLDER BROTHER IS ALSO QUITE A JOKER. I'VE FALLEN FOR HIS PRANKS AT LEAST TWICE.)
- LOVES AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN-TYPE MUSIC.
- A TOYS"R"US KID AND A STAR CHILD.
- A REAL RAY OF SUNSHINE, HE BRIGHTENS UP THE MOOD IN THE OFFICE.

IN TERMS OF JOBS, HE'S AN ALL-AROUND MASTER OF ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING.

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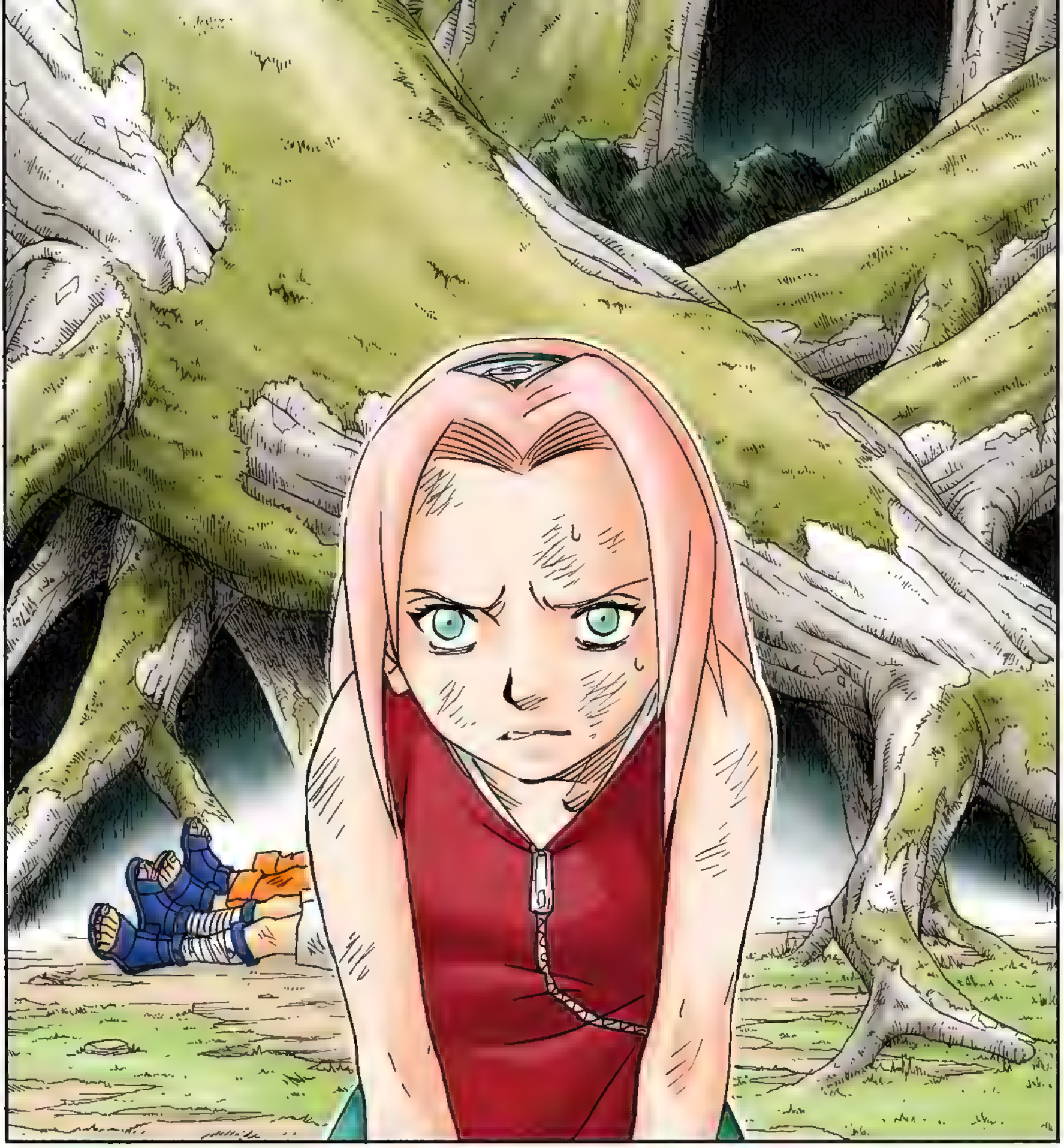

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53：

SAKURA'S DECISION!!

GAKK!

!!

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LEE!!

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MY LEFT EAR...

!!

PLIT

...FROM BLOCKING MY ATTACKS.

カチャ

IT'S THIS APPLIANCE ON MY ARM...

...YOU SEE? IT PREVENTS YOU...

WHAT DID YOU USE ON HIM?!

.....!

.....

HUF

HUF

HEH HEH HEH...

EVEN IF YOU BLOCK MY FIST, THE SOUND WAVES REACH YOU.

IT'S SOUND!

DO YOU UNDERSTAND...

...THE FUNDAMENTAL NATURE OF SOUND?

SOUND?!

.....!!

77

PRECISELY.

WHEN YOU HEAR A SOUND, IT'S ACTUALLY...

..THOSE VIBRATIONS DISPLACING THE AIR, WHICH TREMBLES AGAINST YOUR EARDRUM.

.....!

VIBRA-TIONS ...?

MOREOVER, IF THE SOUND IS POWERFUL ENOUGH TO UPSET THE LIQUID WITHIN THE SEMI-CIRCULAR CANALS OF THE DEEPEST INNER EAR..

...IT BECOMES IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU TO MAINTAIN YOUR BALANCE.

SEMI-CIRCULAR CANALS

EARDRUM

AND THE HUMAN EARDRUM-- THE TYMPANIC MEMBRANE--

...RUPTURES WHEN EXPOSED TO SOUND LEVELS IN EXCESS OF 150 PHONS.

...SIMPLY DON'T WORK AGAINST US.

SO, YOU SEE, CRUDE, OLD-FASHIONED PHYSICAL ARTS...

HEH HEH... AND IT WILL BE SOME TIME...

...BEFORE YOUR EQUILIBRIUM RETURNS.

IT'S RARE FOR A FOE TO FORCE ME TO REVEAL THE NATURE OF MY TECHNIQUES.

BUT NOW THE TIDE HAS TURNED AGAINST YOU!

YOU DID START OUT VERY WELL, THOUGH.

スボ

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キッ

...A FAR MORE ELEGANT AND EFFECTIVE ART THAN YOUR CRUDE APPLICATION OF BRUTE FORCE.

I CAN WIELD SOUND WAVES AS A WEAPON ...WITH ENOUGH FORCE TO CRUSH ENTIRE BOULDERS!

AND WITH A MERE THOUGHT I CAN USE SOUND WAVES TO FORCE AIR INTO THE EARTH BENEATH ME, TRANSFORMING ROCK-HARD SOIL INTO THE SOFTEST KIND OF CUSHION...

BLAST HIM...

I'll...

BUT EVEN IF YOU NEVER EMPLOY IT, I'M VERY PROUD OF YOU FOR MASTERING THIS TECHNIQUE!

TAP

...IS TO PROTECT SOMEONE VERY DEAR TO YOU.

THE ONLY TIME YOU MAY USE THIS TECHNIQUE...

...TO PROTECT... SOMEONE DEAR TO ME...?

!

PAT

AND NOW...

...IT'S YOUR TURN.

GOOD WORK LEE!

DARN IT...

BLAST...!!

!!

!!

HE'S COMING!

!!

!!

WHAT?!

LEE!!

IMPOSSIBLE!

EEP!

KONOHA HURRICANE!!

MY LAST ATTACK IS FINALLY SHOWING SOME EFFECT!

PAT

!!

スギー

UHN!!

...BUT NOW, WHERE'S THAT FAST, LASER-SHARP ATTACK OF JUST A FEW MOMENTS AGO?

YOU STARTLED ME AT FIRST...

OWW!

THIS ARM OF MINE MAGNIFIES EVERY LITTLE SOUND FROM WITHIN TO THE UTMOST LIMITS. IT'S AN AMPLIFIER..

...AND IT GOES TO !!!!

AND NOT ONLY THAT, BUT FAR FROM RELYING ON THE MOMENTUM OF MY ARM'S SWING...

...I CAN USE MY CHAKRA TO DIRECT ITS POWER TOWARD MY CHOSEN PREY, WHEREVER HE MAY LIE!!

LEEEEE!!

AAUUGH!!

ドカーン

...FOR THE COUP DE GRACE!

NOW...

AAARGH!!

I DON'T THINK SO!

...OH ...MY...

.....

IT LOOKS LIKE SASUKE AND NARUTO ARE JUST UNCONSCIOUS... BUT...

RUNNING AWAY SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD PLAN!

THOSE GUYS ARE GETTING CREAMED!!

WASN'T SHE, LIKE, YOUR BEST FRIEND OR SOMETHING?!

I MEAN, SAKURA'S IN DEEP! WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE HER... CAN WE?!

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, INO?!

...THE FAMOUS LEE'S OBVIOUSLY HAD HIS BUTT KICKED, AND SAKURA'S ALL ALONE...

WHY. WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME?

SAYING WHAT?!

I HEARD SOMEONE SAYING...

WHAT'S UP, SAKURA?

UM... INO?

!

WHAT?

SAYING THAT YOU LIKE SASUKE, TOO!

WHY AM I REMEMBER-ING THAT NOW?

HEY! INO! WHAT'S IT GONNA BE?!

IF IT'S TRUE... THAT MAKES US...

...RIVALS!

CAN BEAT THEM!

NOT EVEN I

THOSE GUYS WOULD TAKE ME OUT IN ABOUT 10 SECONDS FLAT!

ガ" ガ"

.....!!

...WE MAY JUST MAKE THINGS WORSE!

THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO. IF WE BLUNDER IN NOW...

!

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AIEE!!

HAH!!

!

MY THROWING STARS...

...WERE REPELLED BY A WALL OF AIR!!

!!

OW!!

OW!

YOU'RE A DISGRACE TO ALL SHINOBI... FUSSING WITH YOUR LOOKS WHEN YOU SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON YOUR TRAINING!

WHAT NINJA TECHNIQUE IS THAT-- THE ART OF DEEP CONDITION-ING?

LOVELY HAIR... SO MUCH MORE BOUNCE AND SHINE THAN MINE HAS!

YO!

HAH! GOOD ONE!!

...IS ENTER-TAIN HER!

THE LEAST WE CAN DO...

!!

ZAKU... WHY DON'T YOU FINISH OFF SASUKE OR ONE OF HER OTHER FALLEN HEART-THROBS...

...RIGHT IN FRONT OF THIS LOVESICK LITTLE PIG?

S-SAKURA...

I CAN'T SUMMON ANY STRENGTH...

HOLD STILL!

NO! THEY WOULDN'T...!

NGH!

ポ ポ ロ ロ

I...

I'M JUST A BURDEN TO THEM... JUST SOMEONE THEY HAVE TO PROTECT!

I CAN'T ...

I'M ALWAYS IN THE WAY ...

NEVER HELPING DARN IT!

LET'S DO IT.

ALL RIGHT.

I NEED TO HELP THE PEOPLE I CARE ABOUT!

THIS TIME ...

ﾘﾝｯ

I THOUGHT THIS TIME IT WOULD BE DIFFERENT!

WH-WHAT'LL WE DO?!

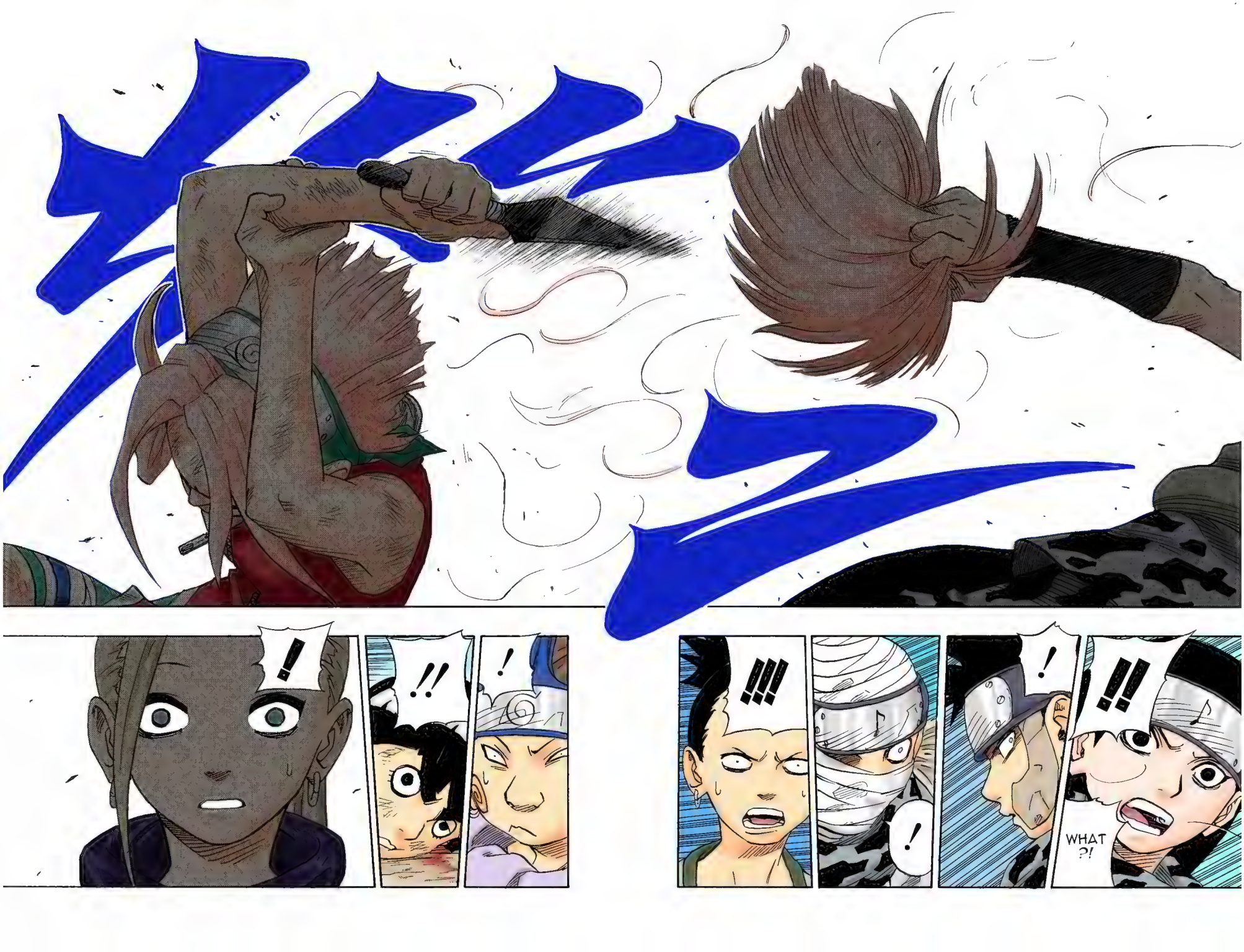
!!

HEY! SASUKE AND NARUTO ARE IN DEEP TROUBLE!

HEH HEH

YOU THINK SO?

YOUR TRICKS ARE USELESS AGAINST ME, LITTLE GIRL.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!!
WHAT
?!

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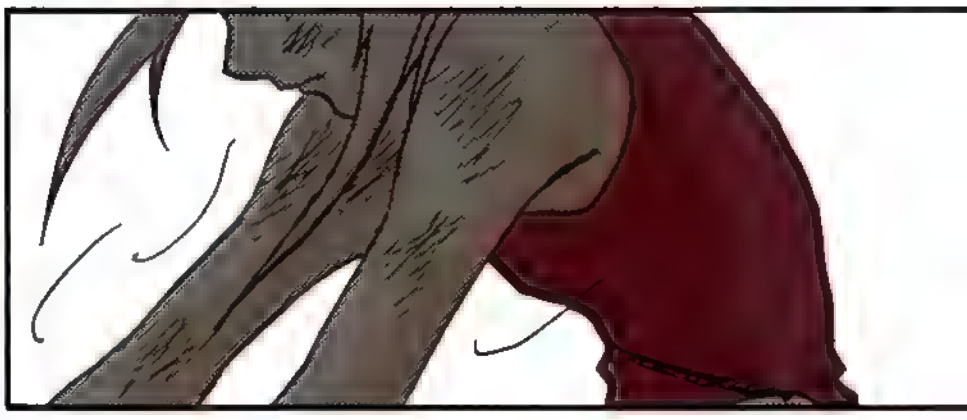
54：

SAKURA AND INO

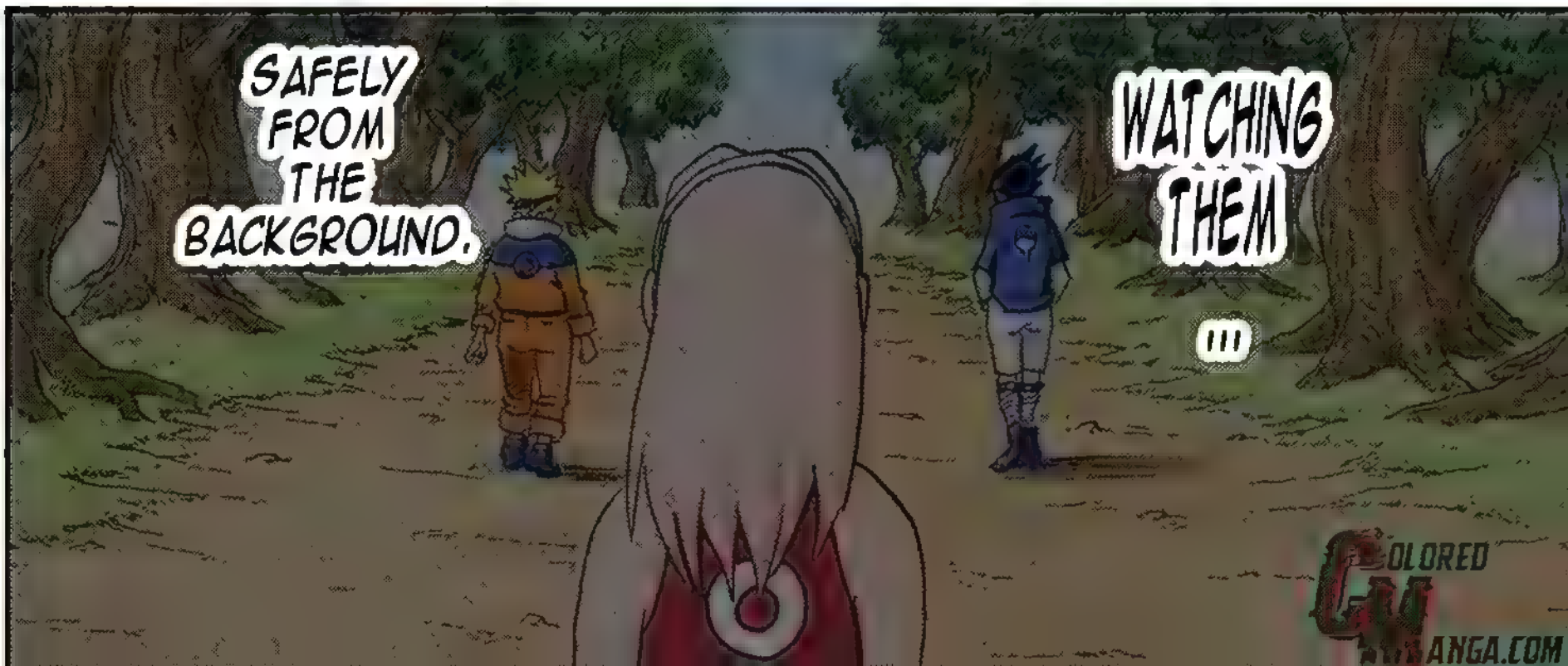
COLORED MANGA.COM

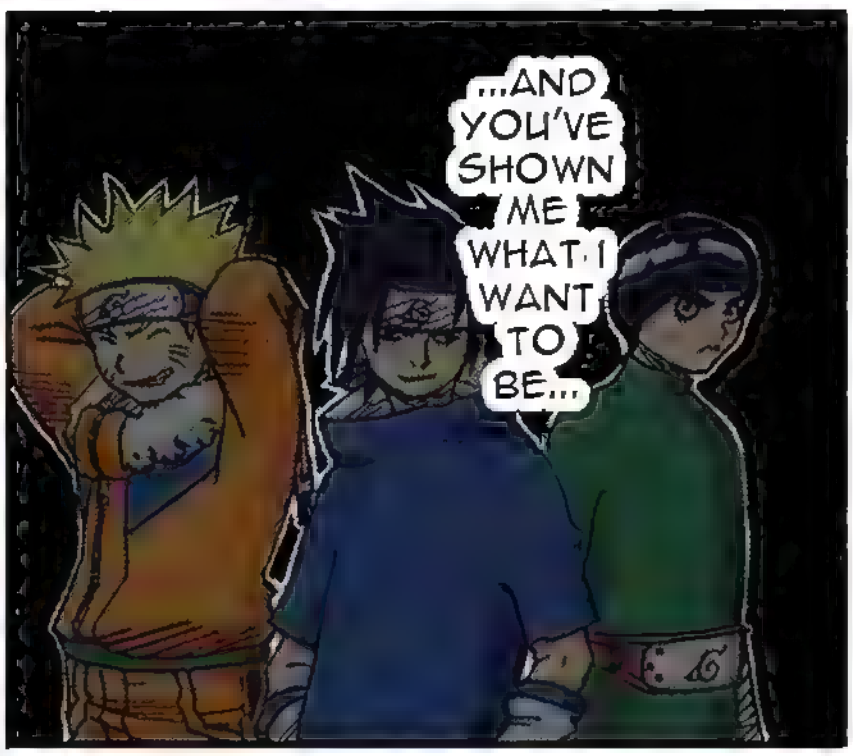
THOUGHT OF MYSELF AS A FULL-FLEDGED NINJA...
I'D ALWAYS ...



CRUSHING ON SASUKE AND SCOLDING NARUTO
...

PROUD TO BE 'AN EQAUAL' AS I TRAILED AFTER MY TEAMMATES
...


SAFELY FROM THE BACKGROUND.
WATCHING THEM
...
COLORED



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NOW IT'S YOUR TURN...

...TO WATCH MY BACK!!

!

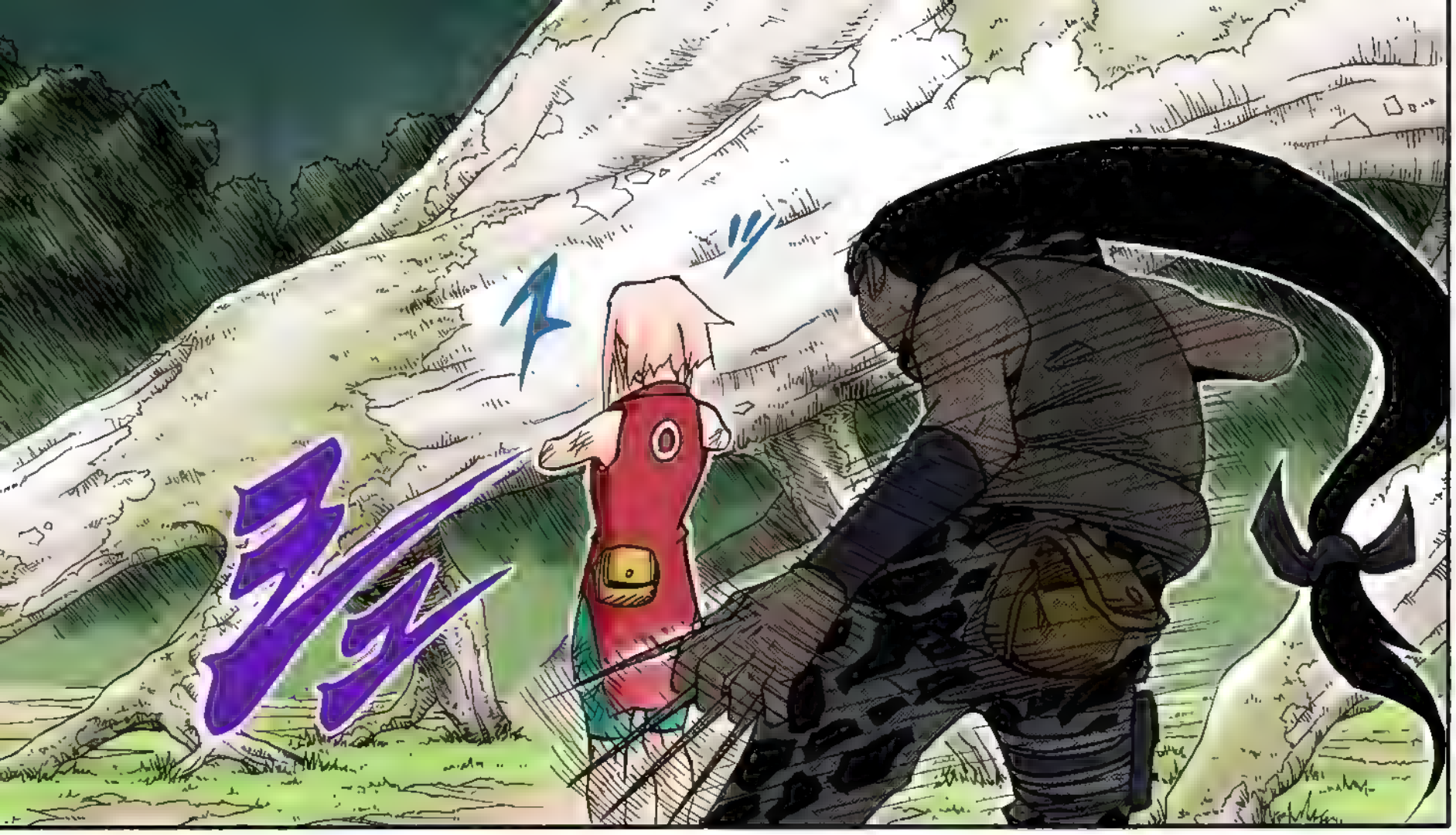
KIN! FINISH HER!!

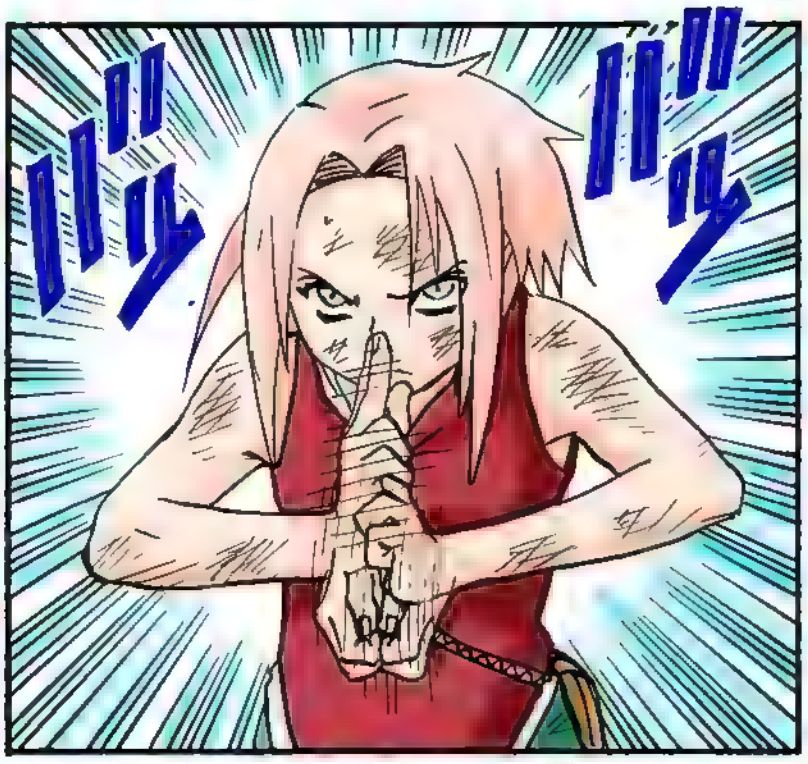
SAKURA?!

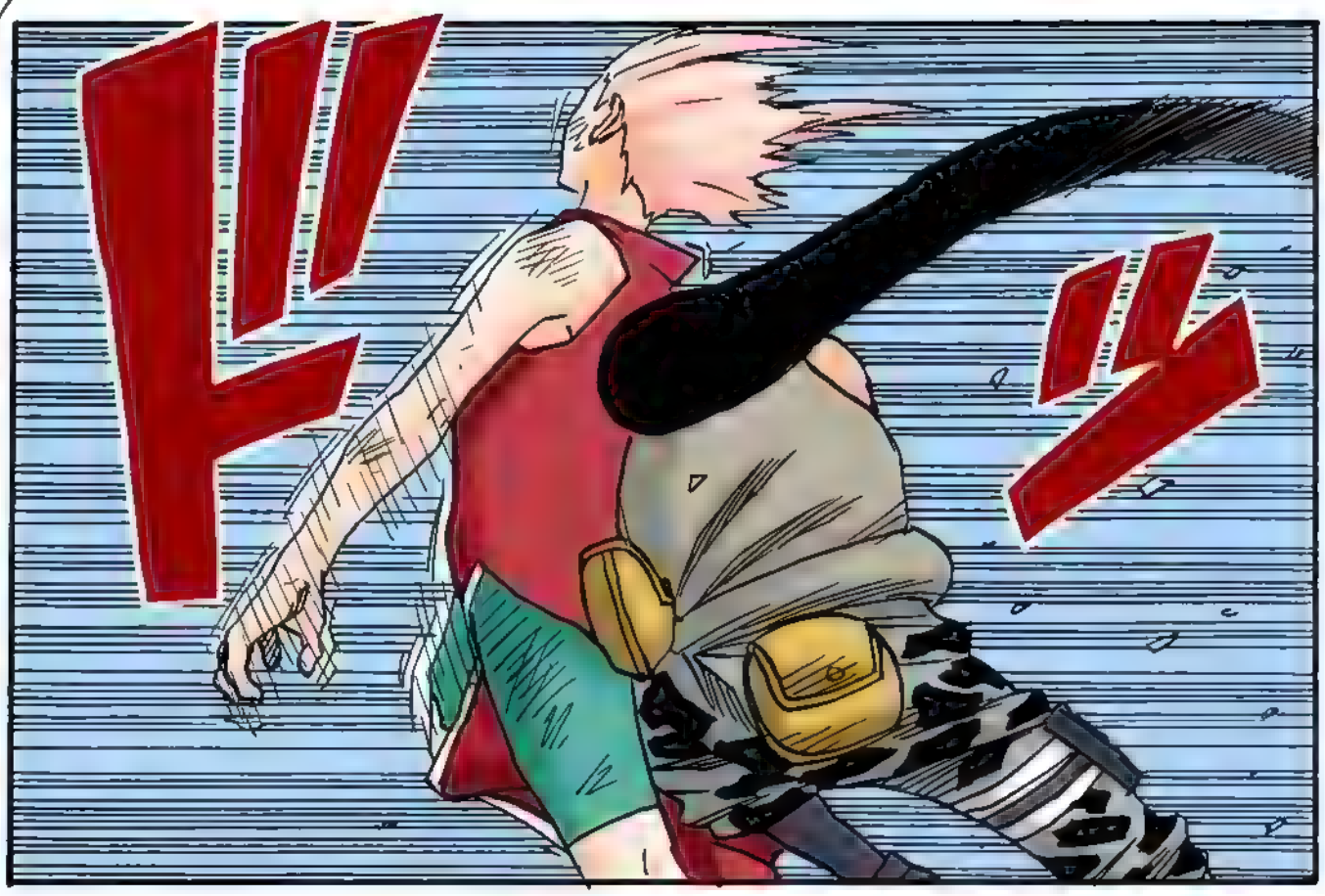
.....!

HA!

!!







COLORED MANGA.COM

SHE'S MAKING A MOCKERY OF THIS TRYING TO DECEIVE US WITH SUCH A RUDIMENTARY TECHNIQUE!

ZIGGING WHEN I ZAGGED ...

THE ART OF SUBSTITUTION!!

ポ

THE NERVE OF HER, COMING RIGHT FOR ME!

KIN, LOOK OUT!

THE AIR PRESSURE IS AT FULL STRENGTH, WITH NO ULTRASONIC OUTPUT...

GIVE IT UP.

COLORED
AREA.COM

ZANKUHA! THE BLAST THAT SLICES THE AIR!!

POOR, FOOLISH GIRL... JUST A ONE-TRICK PONY.

!!

...YOU'RE OVER-HEAD!

OBVIOUSLY...

MY SMALLEST SKILL IS MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR YOU!!

TRY IT TWICE, TRY IT THRICE... THAT TRICK WILL NEVER WORK ON ME!

カチャ

MANGA.COM

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キョロ

HEH HEH...

COME OUT, COME OUT, WHEREVER YOU...

!

PLIT

PLIT

...EH?

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!!

THIS TIME...

...IT'S REAL!!

WHAT THE...?!

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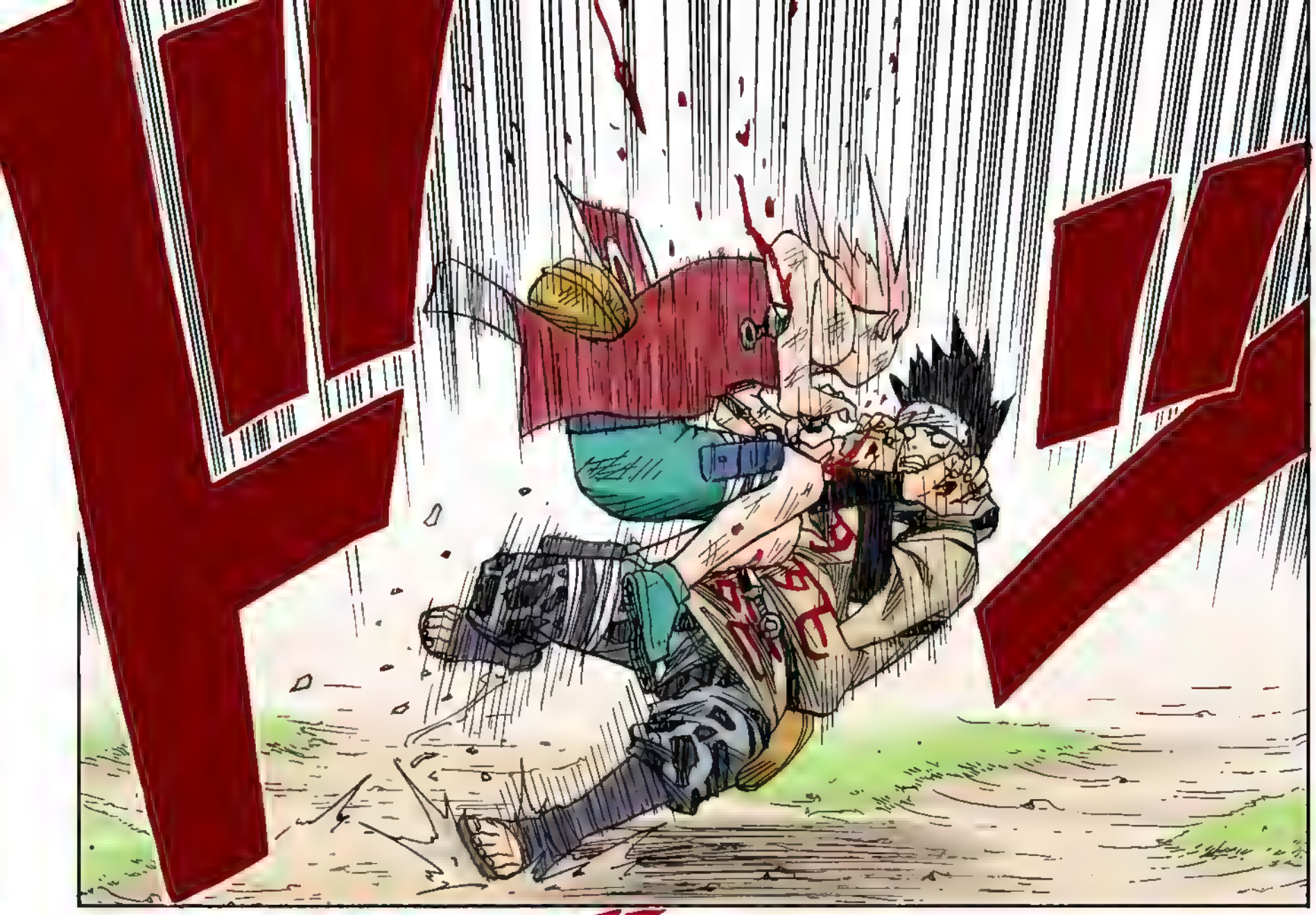
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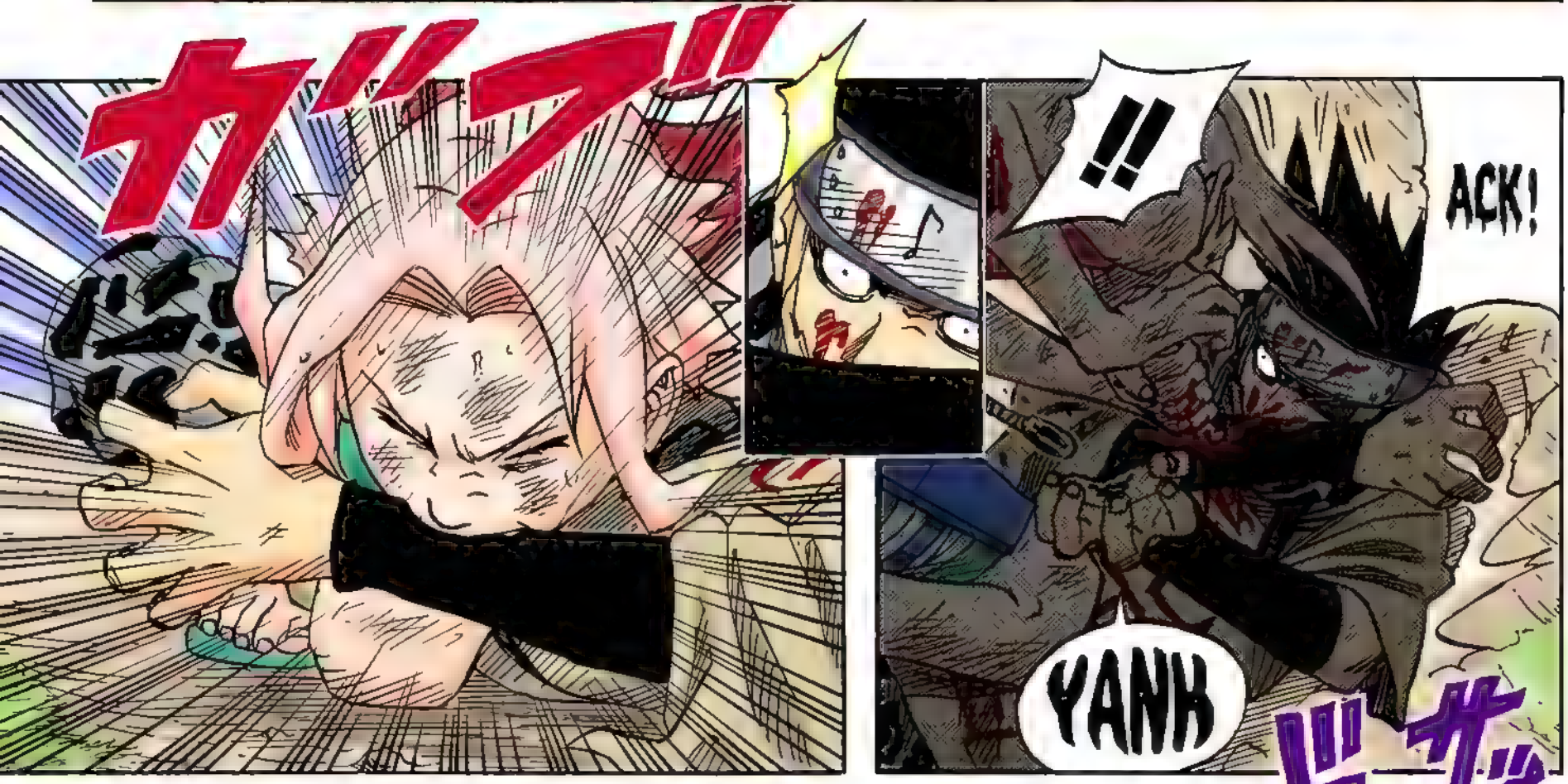
カッ!!
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!!
ACK!
YANK
ドーザッ

GET OFF!!
ドカ
ドカ
!
!
!
!
!

SOB
SOB

SAKURA...

MY NAME IS YAMANAKA INO. WHAT'S YOURS?

I'M SAKURA... HARUNO SAKURA...

...!

WHO ARE YOU...?

!

EVERYONE ALWAYS CALLS YOU "BILLBOARD BROW," AND PICKS ON YOU...

AND YOU HIDE BEHIND ALL OF THAT HAIR... LIKE A SHEEPDOG...

...OR A SHY LITTLE GHOST.

;SOB;

...SO OF COURSE YOU GET TEASED.

YOU DO HAVE A HIGH FOREHEAD...

I CAN'T HELP NOTICING...

TAP

COLORED
MANGA.COM

HUH?

TELL YOU WHAT, SAKURA... MEET ME HERE AGAIN TOMORROW, OKAY?

I'LL MAKE IT WORTH YOUR WHILE... SO DON'T STAND ME UP.

!

IT'S MUCH CUTER LIKE THIS, SAKURA.

YOU CAN KEEP THE RIBBON...

DARN IT, LET GO!

ガタッ

LET THE WORLD SEE THAT PRETTY FACE!! STRIKE A POSE!

INO...

THE ONLY REASON THEY TEASE YOU ABOUT IT IS BECAUSE YOU'VE MADE IT OBVIOUS YOU'RE SENSITIVE. DON'T PLAY THEIR GAME. SHOW IT OFF!

BUT WHAT?

TH- THANKS... BUT...

PEOPLE CAN SEE MY FOREHEAD!

COLORED MANGA.COM

HOW DO YOU DO?

SAY HELLO!

THIS IS SAKURA.

HEY, INO! WHO'S YOUR NEW FRIEND?

GUESS WHO IT IS!

HEY, EVERYONE... WANT TO KNOW A SECRET? THERE'S A BOY I THINK IS CUTE.

バキドカ

...HOW DID YOU KNOW?

HOW...

DON'T TELL ME IT'S SASUKE!

WHAT ARE WE, MIND READERS?!

HIM! HAH!

HE JUST STRUTS AROUND, ACTING LIKE HE'S SO COOL.

...

REALLY? SASUKE?

HEY...INO! SAKURA'S GOTTEN TO BE A REAL RAY OF SUNSHINE LATELY, HASN'T SHE?

WELL, DUUUH! SASUKE'S ONLY THE BIGGEST HEARTTHROB IN THE VILLAGE!

SAKURA...

EVERYONE SAYS YOU'RE AFTER SASUKE, TOO, INO...

HEY, INO! SASUKE SEEMS TO LIKE GIRLS WITH LONG HAIR, SO I'M GOING TO GROW MINE...

I GUESS THAT MAKES US RIVALS...

COLORED MANGA.COM

I NOTICE YOUR HAIR IS LOT LONGER...

...INO.

WHAT?!

THINK YOU'RE SO GREAT? WELL, TOP THIS!

SASUKE AND I ARE ON THE SAME TEAM!

WHAT'S IT TO YOU, SAKURA?!

バチ

バチ

THAT GOES DOUBLE FOR ME, SAKURA...

...I DON'T CARE WHAT IT TAKES. YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SHOW ME UP!!

SO, INO...

...YOU'LL NEVER BEAT ME NOW.

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-;UNHH;-

YOU LITTLE WITCH!!

THEY NEED ME...TO PROTECT THEM...

HUF

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TH-THIS IS NOT GOOD...!

INO! INO... COME ON!

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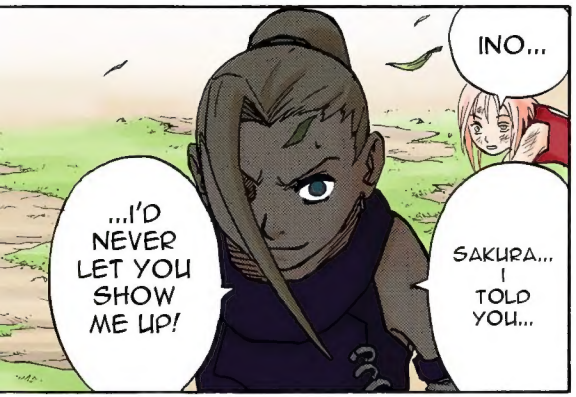

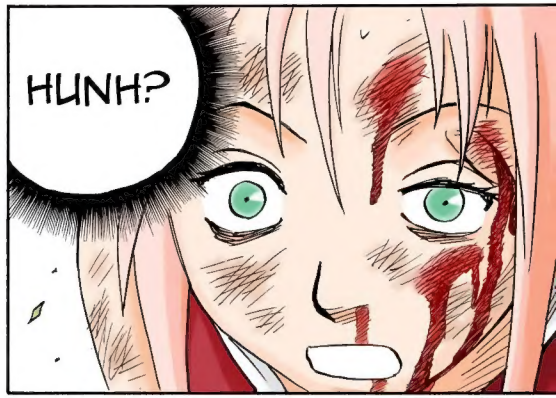

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